

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

2022 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT



Union Pond – Photo by Suzanne Mathieu

Year Ending December 31, 2022

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TOWN DEDICATION



Joseph G. Sullivan, son of Jack and Ginny, was born and raised in the Town of Holden, growing up on Kendall Road. Joe graduated from Wachusett Regional High School in 1967 and from Lowell Technology Institute (now Umass Lowell) in 1971. Following college, he was the founder of Production Machine Associates (PMA), which he recently retired from after more than forty years.

Upon graduating college, Joe married his high school sweetheart, Susan Hall, that same year. Shortly thereafter, Joe and Susan began their family and had three children, Glenn, Corrine and Mark. They are now proud grandparents to Meaghan, Colleen, Erin, Liam, Tyler, Cameron, Reed and Michael.

Joe served as a Selectman in Holden for numerous years, spanning from 1997 through 2009. His father in law, Ed Hall, had served as a Holden Selectman as well. He has always worked hard to help others in need, notably through his position serving on the H.E.L.P. at Home committee since 2013. This group provides financial assistance to Holden residents who are having difficulty paying utility or other bills. Joe has given countless hours as a court appointed special advocate (CASA), advocating for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Joe served the town as a member of the Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board from 2016-2020. This Board provides the Holden Municipal Light Department with the operational direction necessary to ensure the success of the department and town functions. He was also integral in helping to plan for the Town of Holden 350th anniversary celebration. Joe was elected Town Moderator in 2020, re-elected in 2021 and again in 2022 until retiring from that position this year.

He held multiple officers positions in the Wachusett Area Rotary Club, including past president. Joe even traveled to Haiti many times for projects like helping to build a pump system to get water to the local villages. Joe is a lecturer at St. Mary's Church and is involved in the Pre-Cana consultation process for couples preparing to be married in a Catholic church along with his wife Susan.

For leisure, Joe is a diehard fan of all New England sports and even enjoyed many years as a Red Sox season ticket holder. We cannot leave out the fact that Joe is a proud member of the Hole-in-one-club at Oak Hill Country Club...although this matter remains controversial among some close friends who claim that there is no video proof of the accomplishment.

Currently Joe is enjoying spending quality time with his family and friends and loves to travel the world with his wife Susan. This year they plan to complete a "bucket list" trip to the Holy Land. Joe has always believed in community involvement and making others feel welcome in Holden. He loves to have interactions with many and is committed to giving back to help make the world a better place. Holden's 2022 Annual Town Report is dedicated to Joe Sullivan.

OUR LEGISLATORS

UNITED STATES SENATORS

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Warren (D)

317 Hart Senate Office Building (202) 224-4543
Washington, DC 20510

2400 JFK Federal Building (617) 565-3170
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

The Honorable Edward J. Markey (D)

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building (202) 224-2742
Washington, DC 20510

975 JFK Federal Building (617) 565-8519
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02201

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – THIRD DISTRICT

The Honorable James P. McGovern (D)

438 Cannon House Office Building (202) 225-6101
Washington, DC 20515

12 East Worcester Street, Suite 1 (508) 831-7356
Worcester, MA 01604

STATE SENATOR – WORCESTER AND HAMPSHIRE

The Honorable Anne M. Gobi (D)

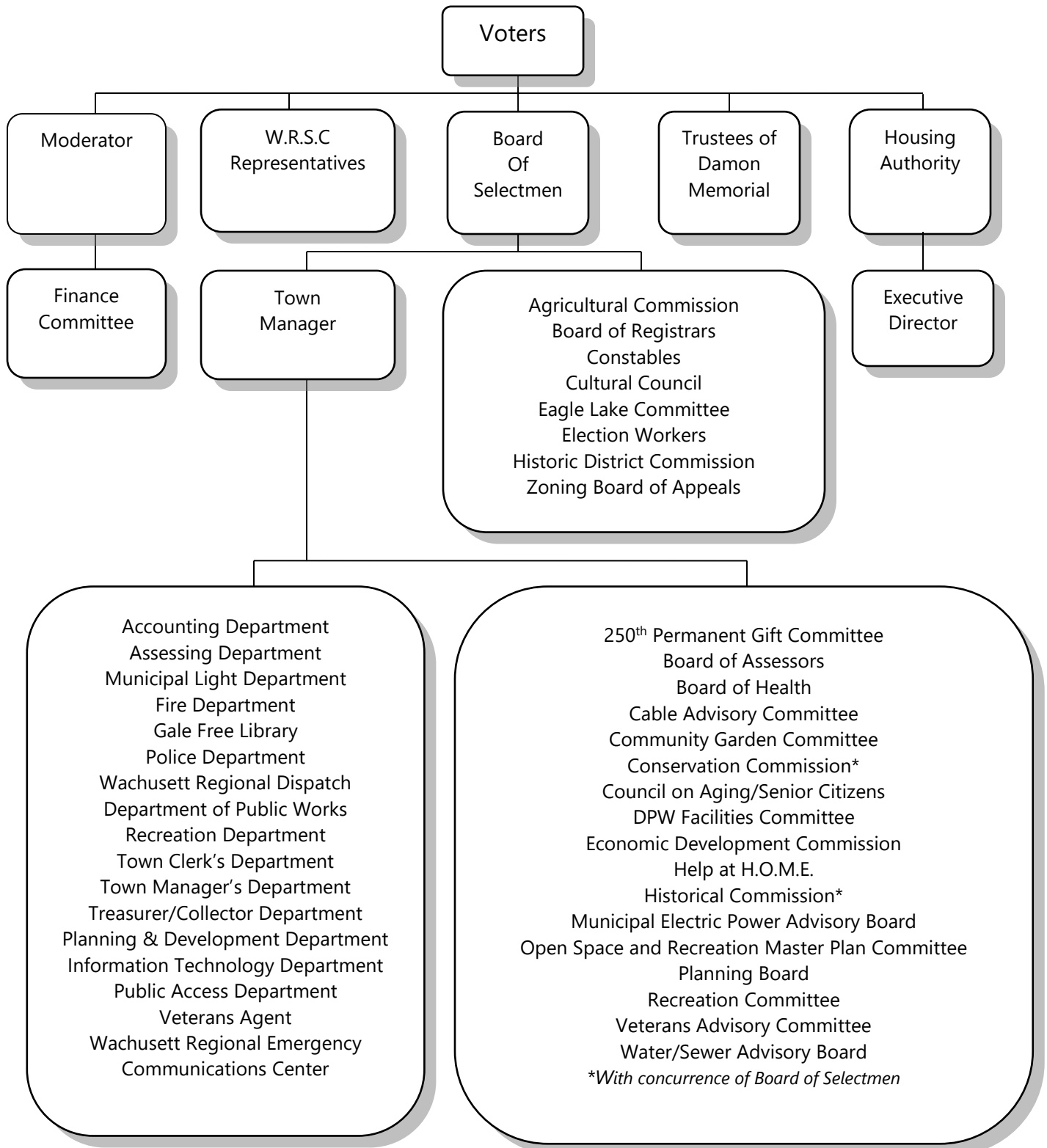
State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 413-A (617) 722-1540
Boston, MA 02133
Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE – FIRST WORCESTER DISTRICT

The Honorable Kimberly N. Ferguson (R)

State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 124 (617) 722-2100
Boston, MA 02133
Kimberly.Ferguson@mahouse.gov

TOWN OF HOLDEN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS



Jeanne M. Hudson, CMC –Town Clerk (right)
Elizabeth A. Monahan – Assistant Town Clerk (middle)
Suzanne M. Lucia – Senior Clerk (left)

Considered the core of local government, the Town Clerk's office serves as the central information hub for local residents and citizens at large.

The position of Town Clerk performs duties in accordance with the provisions of more than 73 Chapters and 451 sections of Massachusetts General Law. The Town Clerk serves as Registrar of Vital Statistics, Chief Election Officer, Clerk of the Board of Registrar and custodian of Town records.

The population of Holden is always ebbing and flowing. Currently there are 19,766 residents. Broken down by precincts, there are roughly 3,300 residents in each of our six precincts.

It was a busy election year for the Clerk's office. The Voter's Act allows for mail in voting and early voting hours for municipal elections in the future. With the small number of elected seats in Holden, it's not pragmatic to offer Early Voting hours for municipal elections. Residents are encouraged to absentee vote at the Clerk's office if you will be out of Town for the municipal election, have a religious belief that prevents you from voting at your polling place or have a disability that prevents you from voting at your polling place. Nomination papers are available at the beginning of January each year. Please contact us if you are interested in running for office and serving your Town.

Effective as of January 1, 2022, dog owners aged 70 or older are exempt from paying a licensing fee for their dog(s). Service dog(s) are also exempt from a licensing fee. All dog owners, regardless of exemption status, must register their dog(s) annually. The fee is \$10 for spayed/neutered and \$15 for intact until April 15th after which a late fee of \$25 will be assessed to the licensing fee resulting in a licensing fee of \$35 and \$40 respectively. The annual rabies clinic is planned for the first Saturday in April. It will be held at the Police/Fire Compound on Main Street. Dog licensing is always available at the rabies clinic.

Another option to license your dog(s) is available online at <https://www.holdenma.gov/town-treasurer-tax-collector/pages/dog-licensing>. A bank fee may be assessed. Please use the Clerk's drop box for hard copies of dog applications, rabies certificates and be sure to enclose a self-addressed envelope to send your dog tag(s).

The Town Clerk's drop box can be used for the secure deposit of ballots but it can also be used for all Town Clerk business. It is located at Town Hall next to the USPS mailbox. Please use it only for Town

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

Clerk business as depositing correspondences for other departments may lead to a delay in receipt to that department. Especially if they are time sensitive documents.

Services offered at the Town Clerk's Office include Notary Public by appointment, Commissioner to Qualify and Justice of the Peace. Please call to schedule a time for these services to ensure staff is available. Please note the Clerk's office is unable to notarize real estate, wills and out of country documents.

Jeanne M. Hudson
Town Clerk

Elizabeth Monahan
Assistant Town Clerk

Suzanne Lucia
Senior Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

WARDENS

Amy Laing-Bobkowski (Precinct 1), Barbara French (Precinct 2),
Susan H. Stafford (Precinct 3), Faith M. Keskula (Precinct 4),
Karen M. Tremblay (Precinct 5), Janet M. Longvall (Precinct 6)

PRECINCT CLERK

Jennifer Munz-Hall (Precinct 1), Karen Cavan (Precinct 2),
Constance J. Hamilton (Precinct 3), Amy Miller (Precinct 4),
Cindy Patteron (Precinct 5), Marta Ferreira (Precinct 6)

ELECTION OFFICERS

John Armstrong, Janet Barron, Richard Barron, Bonnie Cassidy, Kathryn E. Cavan, Janet Chapman, Michael Ciccarelli, James L. Christo, Diana E. Comer, Joan Conrad, Carol Coolidge, Ronna Cuker, Carol Davis, Lisa DeCiero, Denise DeGabriele-Lindberg, Mariana DePerrio, Kathleen Dixon, Samuel Dubrule, Migdalia Elmi, Susan Enman, Anthony Ferrante, Patrick Fessenden, Janet Foley, Jo-Anne Fors, Kathleen Franco-Anthony, Maureen Froggatt, Caroly Gaudette, Michael Greene, Rebecca Groccia, John Grogan, Betty Hale, Roberta Hanlon, Susan Harrigan, Nicole Hassett, Marissa Jacob, Alison Jankowski, Sandra Kartono, David Kent, Kara Kittredge-Millotte, Patricia Korandanis, William Lahey, Elizabeth Lavergne, Maureen Locke, David Lundergan, James MacFarlane, Christine McAuliffe, Michael McAuliffe, Morgan McClintock, Catherine McDonagh, Patricia McEachen, Sybil Mielnicki, Dianne Milewski, Jacalyn Mioglionico, Christine Morrone, Allison Murphy, Brian Murphy, Pamela Mutascio, Robin Owens, Lisa Pepi, Teresa Pham, Meredith Pugh, Eileen Rafferty, Catherine Roberts, Nancy Rocheleau, Brian Rooke, Denise Ross, Asima Silva, Andrew Sinasky, Nancy Sinasky, Charles Skillings, Megan Sleeper, Mary Sloan, June Sloan, Karen Spaziante, John Staruk, Eugene Sullivan Sarah Survell, Claue Thompson, Christine Tivnan, Karen Tremblay, Lori Wagg, Thomas Wagg, Rodney White, Janice Wilbur, Alicynn Wilson, Elizabeth Wood, Maryann Wood



Election Training in Memorial Hall, Town Hall

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS
ELECTED OFFICIALS
MODERATOR**

Joseph G. Sullivan	2022
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN, LIGHT AND WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Richard F. Bates, Vice Clerk	2024
Thomas P. Curran	2023
Geraldine A. Herlihy	2025
Robert P. Lavigne (resigned April 2022)	2023
Stephanie R. Mulroy, Clerk	2025
Anthony M. Renzoni, Chair	2024

TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL

Alan N. Degutis	2024
Russell J. Dye	2023
Richard S. Maurer, Chair	2024
Penelope G. Morgan, Secretary	2025
Virginia B. Powell-Brasier	2025
Richard Sheils, Jr., Vice Chair	2023

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Holden's Representation on a 22-member Committee)

Benjamin Andrews (appointed December 2022)	2023
Krista Bennett (resigned May 2022)	2023
Jana Brennan	2025
Michael Dennis	2023
Maleah Gustafson	2025
George Kaminski	2025
Laura Kirshenbaum	2023
Linda Long-Bellil	2024
Andrew Meader	2023
Lauren Salmon-Garrett	2024
Asima Silva	2024

**APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Stephanie J. Adams	2025
Al Berg	2024
Paul L. Challenger, Chair	2023
Marilynn L. Foley, Clerk	2023
Donald Graves	2023
Christopher Lucchesi, Vice Chair	2024
Jane E. Titcomb	2024
Donna Wallace	2025
David J. White, Sr.	2025

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS
APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR AND THE SELECTMEN
MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Holden's Representation on a 22-Member Committee)

James W. Cournoyer

APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN

TOWN MANAGER

Peter M. Lukes, Esq.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

James C. Dunn III	2023
Maleah Gustafson	2025
Christopher Hugo	2023
Ryan MacKay	2024
Thomas O'Shea	2024
Nancy Rocheleau	2025
Wendy Somerset, Chair	2025

CONSTABLES

Matthew J. Attanian	2025
Daniel B. Gately	2023
Kimberly E. Lynch	2023

EAGLE LAKE DAM COMMITTEE

Mark Aucoin	Gerald Kersus, Chair
Stephen Isabelle	Dan Marinone
Earl Nezuch	Tara Prosser
Brian Vitalis	

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Lance G. Lazar	2025
Lenny Smith	2024
Michael Smith, Chair	2025
Sarah Stebulis, Secretary	2025

HOLDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL

Tracy Acito	2023
Vanessa Bumpus	2024
Ana Gregory	2024
Jessica Milliken, Chair	2023
Jean-Paul Paulynice	2023
Lora Zimmer	2023

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS**

BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

James Amorello	2025
Jane Arntz	2023
Margaret Daley	2024
Jeanne M. Hudson, CMC	

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE

Erin Bradbury	Recreation Committee
Cathy Doherty, Chair	Conservation Commission
Richard Callahan	White Oak Land Conservation Society
Dan Prosser	Eagle Lake/At Large
James Dunn	Agricultural Commission
Jean-Paul Paulynice	At Large
Kenneth Strom	At Large
Scott Verrier	At Large
David Murphy	At Large
Steve Jaslowich	At Large
Mike Savino	At Large
Pamela Harding (resigned October 2022)	Planning Board
Chantell Fleck (appointed November 2022)	Planning Board

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Silvio R. Annunziata	2023
James A. Deignan	2025
Roy Fraser, III	2025
David George	2024
Ronald E. Spakauskas, Chair	2025
Brian Parry, First Alternate	2023
Frederick J. Lonardo, Second Alternate	2023

APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

Stephanie C. King

OPERATING DEPARTMENTS

ACCOUNTANT

Lori A. Rose

FIRE CHIEF/FOREST WARDEN

Russell A. Hall

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF/FIRE PREVENTION

Sean M. Smith

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS**

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Pamela A. Harding (resigned October 2022)
Chantell Fleck (appointed November 2022)
David G. Lindberg, Building Commissioner

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT/GENERAL MANAGER

Barry W. Tupper

POLICE CHIEF

Timothy J. Sherblom

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

John R. Woodsmall

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Rosemary S. Scully

RECREATION DIRECTOR

Nichole A. Hallett (resigned August 2022)
Angela T. Greene (appointed Acting Director August 2022)

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Joseph T. Mulvey

TOWN CLERK

Jeanne M. Hudson

TOWN COUNSEL

Stephen F. Madaus
Demitrios Moschos (Special – Labor Relations)

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Laurie A. Gaudet

VETERAN'S AGENT

Brad H. Sherblom

250TH ANNIVERSARY PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Marilynn L. Foley, Chair
Emma Riffelmacher

Roy Fraser, III

BOARD OF ASSESSORS/FENCE VIEWERS

Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor
James R. Dillon, Assessor

2025
2023

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

BOARD OF HEALTH

Michael Mazloff	2023
Michelle O'Rourke	2024
Melissa Tuomi	2025

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christopher C. Hugo	2024
Henry C. Ouellette	2024
Lawrence D. Popple, Chair	2025
Patricia A. Popple	2025

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Katye Brier	2025
Jessica Cosenza, Chair	2024
Wayne Dodge	2023
Aleel Grennan	2024
Julie McCarthy	2025
Michael Mazloff	2023
Gina Tutela	2025

CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

Luke L. Boucher	2023
Cathleen Doherty (resigned April 2022)	2024
Hannah Lipper	2024
David Nyman	2023
Elizabeth Parent	2025
Heather Parry	2024
Michael Scott, Chair	2023
Kenneth Strom, Vice Chair	2023
*with BOS Approval	

COUNCIL ON AGING/SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Faye M. Ellis (resigned November 2022)	2024
Wayne D. Howard	2024
Lois Johansen	2025
Maureen A. Locke	2024
Richard S. Mansfield, Jr.	2024
Nancy Melton	2025
Susan H. Sullivan	2022
Debra Osipov	2025

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY COMMITTEE

John S. Cross, Jr.	Mark Johnson
James Kempton, Jr.	Christopher Luccesi
Scott Sundin	Daniel Nason, Chair
	John Woodsmall (Ex-Officio)

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Christine Andreoli	2025
Leonardo Angiulo, Vice Chair	2024
Andrea Figueroa	2025
Adam Gerhart	2022
Cynthia Kloczek, Secretary	2024
Kathy Merk, Chair	2024
David Shea	2025
Pamela Harding (Ex-Officio – resigned October 2022)	
Chantell Fleck (Ex-Officio – appointed November 2022)	
Andrew Jenson (Chamber of Commerce)	

HELP AT H.O.M.E.

Brian Bullock, Chair	2024
Colleen Clifford	2024
Fay M. Ellis (resigned November 2022)	2024
Marty J. Holman	2024
Susan E. Marsh	2024
Marcia Sherbourne	2024
Joseph G. Sullivan	2025

HISTORICAL COMMISSION*

Ida J. Nystrom	2025
Charles T. Skillings, Chair	2025
*with BOS Approval	

MASTER PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

Scott Carlson	Joseph Dolak
Barbara Kohlstrom	Jessica Milliken
Scott Morrison	Robin Owens
Anthony Renzoni	Stephen Yerdon

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

Scott R. Carlson	2023
Peter Elkas	2023
Richard Farrell	2023
Daniel Golden	2023
Peter Liddy III	2023
Steven Sendrowski, Chair	2023

PLANNING BOARD

Scott R. Carlson, Chair	2022
Nancy Kielinen	2023
Otto R. Lies	2024
James Parker	2024
Robert V. Ricker	2024
Brynn Zawada	2023

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Erin O. Bradbury, Chair	2024
Dan Correia	2025
Robyn Floyd	2025
Robin H. Grady	2023
Robin Owens	2023

VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Silvio Annunziata	2025
Gary Antinarella	2025
Ronald Barrus, Sr.	2025
Angelica Owanisian	2025
Kurt Owanisian	2023
Anthony Renzoni, BOS Representative	



Maple Spring Pond – Photo by Suzanne Beer

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION RESULTS – MAY 9, 2022

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Vote for Two -3 Year Term							
Board of Selectmen	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Geraldine A. Herlihy	129	148	204	167	221	190	1059
Steven B. Cooley	140	112	133	114	94	170	763
Thomas P. Curran	141	141	187	162	201	178	1010
Stephanie R. Mulroy	205	172	206	172	130	216	1101
							0
							0
Blanks	63	55	66	51	49	68	352
Write-ins	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Provisionals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	680	628	796	666	696	822	4288

Vote for One - 4 Year Term							
Holden Housing Authority	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Jini L. Henderson	205	168	243	225	225	241	1307
							0
							0
Blanks	131	145	155	107	122	169	829
Write-ins	4	1	0	1	1	1	8
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	340	314	398	333	348	411	2144

Vote for One - 1 Year Term							
Moderator	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Joseph G. Sullivan	212	192	273	228	241	272	1418
							0
							0
Blanks	124	121	123	103	106	138	715
Write-ins	4	1	2	2	1	1	11
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	340	314	398	333	348	411	2144

Vote for Two - 3 Year Term							
Trustees of Damon Memorial	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Penelope Guy Morgan	194	164	241	202	211	215	1227
Virginia B. Powell-Braiser	179	155	230	204	202	210	1180
							0
							0
Blanks	303	309	324	260	282	394	1872
Write-ins	4	0	1	0	1	3	9
Provisionals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	680	628	796	666	696	822	4288

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION RESULTS – MAY 9, 2022

Vote for One - 1 Year Term							
Wachusett Regional School District Cmte	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Andrew M. Meader	222	198	248	224	204	251	1347
							0
							0
Blanks	111	109	134	98	133	145	730
Write-ins	7	7	16	11	11	15	67
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	340	314	398	333	348	411	2144

Vote for Three - 3 Year Term							
Wachusett Regional School District Cmte	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Maleah FT Gustafson	159	150	205	171	211	205	1101
Jana T. Brennan	170	151	236	175	216	209	1157
Deborah A. Femia	117	118	152	130	178	144	839
George A. Kaminski	165	133	162	150	113	201	924
Elise Meader	167	144	150	151	109	187	908
							0
Blanks	236	241	286	222	211	276	1472
Write-ins	6	5	3	0	6	11	31
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	1020	942	1194	999	1044	1233	6432

<u>Ballots cast</u>	<u>Prec. 1</u>	<u>Prec. 2</u>	<u>Prec. 3</u>	<u>Prec. 4</u>	<u>Prec. 5</u>	<u>Prec. 6</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Total Ballots Cast	340	314	398	333	348	411	2144

<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Prec. 1</u>	<u>Prec. 2</u>	<u>Prec. 3</u>	<u>Prec. 4</u>	<u>Prec. 5</u>	<u>Prec. 6</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Total registered voters eligible to vote as of April 19, 2022	2424	2397	2476	2519	2560	2526	14902
Voter participation percentage	14.03%	13.10%	16.07%	13.22%	13.59%	16.27%	14.39%

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 16, 2022

At 7:00PM on Monday, May 16, 2022 the Annual Town Meeting was held at the Wachusett Regional High School Auditorium at 1401 Main Street in the Town of Holden. Holden Town Bylaws Article 1, Section 5 which states one percent of the registered voters of the Town shall constitute a quorum. As of April 19th, the last day to register as a voter there were 14,902 registered voters requiring 149 voters to be in attendance. At 7:13PM, there were one hundred and sixty four (164) registered Holden voters who attended and an additional fourteen (14) guests.

Through the CARES Act, the Town purchased the Meridia voting system in 2021. It uses radio frequency clickers to tally the vote and display the results on the overhead screen on the auditorium's stage for the audience to view. Town Clerk, Jeanne Hudson introduced the Meridia System and its operation to the audience. Assistant Town Clerk, Liz Monahan and Sean McPeak from Meridia monitored the system.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to be recognized by the Moderator:

Jeanne M. Hudson, Town Clerk
Liz Monahan, Assistant Town Clerk
Lori Rose, Town Accountant
Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel
Pamela Harding, Planning and Development Director
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of WRSD
Jarus Relly, School System
Russ Hall, Fire Chief
John Woodsmall, DPW Director
Patrick Wood, DPW
Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor
Laurie Gaudet, Town Treasurer
Sarah Survell, Check in Clerk
Sean McPeak, Meridia Vendor

Holden Police Officers:
John Santimore
Todd Ventres
Haley Delahanty

There were no tellers appointed by the Moderator.

The following Election Wardens checked in voters for the ATM:

Connie Hamilton, 417 Causeway Street	Susan Stafford, 296 Chapel Street
Cindy Patterson, 33 General Hobbs Road	Sarah Survell, 32 Saint Jude Blvd

ARTICLE 1 – TO CHOOSE A MODERATOR FOR SAID MEETING

MOTION MADE: N/A

The moderator, Joseph Sullivan, was elected at the Annual Town Election on Monday, May 9, 2022.

ARTICLE 2 – TO HEAR A REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE TOWN ELECTION HELD ON MAY 9, 2022

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 16, 2022

To cast their ballots for:

Moderator for one year.

Two Selectmen for three years.

Two Trustees of Damon Memorial Library for three years.

Three Members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee for three years.

One Member of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee for one year.

One Holden Housing Authority Member for four years.

MOTION MADE: No motion made at this time as this article was acted upon previously.

As a courtesy the moderator read the results of the election.

ARTICLE 3 - TO HEAR THE REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS AND ANY OUTSTANDING COMMITTEES AND ACT THEREON

Moderator Sullivan noted the Annual Town Report contained the reports of Town Officers, Boards, Commissions and Committees. The 2021 Annual Town Report Moderator Sullivan read the dedication page for Robert E. Evans. He noted the attendance of Mr. Evan's wife, Kathleen, in the audience. Mr. Evans was a resident of Holden for 54 years and avid classic car enthusiast.

No Action was necessary under this article as all the Boards and Committees submitted their annual report.

ARTICLE 4 – FIX SALARY AND COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by General Laws Chapter 41, Section 108, and appropriate a sum of money therefor, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4		
FY 2022		FY 2023
N/A	FIX COMPENSATION	N/A

Summary: Article 4 sets the compensation rate for the annual services of the Town Moderator and the members of the Select Board. The compensation rates have not changed for many years and are minimal considering the number of hours and the effort expended by these individuals every year. The actual appropriations for these payments are included in Article 6, General Government.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 4.

MOTION MADE: Marilyn Foley, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town, in accordance with Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws as amended, vote to fix the salaries and compensation of elective Town officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Moderator	\$100.00
Selectman-Chairman	1,150.00
2nd Member	1,000.00
3rd Member	1,000.00

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4th Member	1,000.00
5th Member	1,000.00
Trustees of Damon Memorial	None

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 130 YES 9 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 5 – PAST TOWN DEBTS AND CHARGES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges for the past fiscal years, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$1,402.69	PAST TOWN DEBTS AND CHARGES	\$0

Summary: Article 5 is a legal formality. It allows the Town Manager to pay bills that come in after the normal close of a budget year. The bills are typically small and the money for payments comes from free cash as the budgets that would have been used in those prior year(s) were closed to free cash. There are no bills/items to consider this year. Bills sometimes are for goods or services received in prior fiscal year(s), but invoices for payment were not submitted for processing before the close of the applicable fiscal year.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends no action be taken on Article 5.

MOTION MADE: Jane Titcomb, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town take no action under this article.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 107 YES 19 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 6 – GENERAL GOVERNMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, from the Overlay Reserve Fund, the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund, the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges, for the ensuing year for General Government purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$7,174,458	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$7,461,972

Summary: General Government comprises many required Town functions, including Town Manager, Accountant, Treasurer/Collector, Assessor, Clerk, Planning and Development, Information Technology and

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Personnel. It includes health and liability insurance, legal services and pension assessments for all Town departments. It also funds local government functions including the Board of Selectmen, Town Moderator and Finance Committee, including the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund.

Overall, the FY 2023 budget for General Government has increased \$287,514 (4.0%), primarily due to increases in the cost projections for the Town's pension plan and the expense of holding 3 elections with an additional voting district during the coming year.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 6

MOTION MADE: Joseph Dolak, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$7,461,972 for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT, substantially as shown on page 7 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$49,980 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$12,648 from the Solid Waste Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$50,000 from Overlay Surplus and by raising and appropriating \$7,349,344 to cover the balance;

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 134 YES 7 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 7: HUMAN SERVICES AND CULTURE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges, for the ensuing year for Human Services and Culture purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$1,318,810	HUMAN SERVICES AND CULTURE	\$1,364,378

Summary: This article includes the budgets for the Senior Center, the Veterans Assistance Office, the Gale Free Library, and the Historic District Commission. Those combined budgets are up 3.5% this year, as described below.

The Senior Services budget addresses the needs of our Senior Citizens, providing nutrition and outreach programs for the homebound, information and programs at the Senior Center and transportation. The Senior Services budget of \$311,180 has increased \$12,590, or 4.2%, due to increased fuel costs for the van services provided.

The Veterans Assistance Office is a state and federally mandated function that is 75% reimbursed by the State of Massachusetts for all direct assistance provided to veterans. The Veterans budget of \$86,568 is essentially the same as FY 2022.

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The Gale Free Library budget exceeds the state minimum appropriation requirement for public libraries. Meeting the requirement allows Holden residents to borrow materials from any certified library in the Commonwealth and it makes the library eligible for state aid. Since the Massachusetts State Aid to Public Libraries was established in 1987, Holden has always met the Minimum Appropriation Requirement. The Gale Free Library budget for FY 2023 is \$963,130, representing an increase of \$32,570, or 3.5%. This increase is driven by wage increases to attract and maintain qualified staff.

The Historic District Commission budget funds the care and maintenance of the Hendricks House as a museum and local historical education center. The Historical Commission budget for FY 2023 remains unchanged, at \$3,500.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 7.

MOTION MADE: Marilynn Foley, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$1,364,378 for the proposed budget for HUMAN SERVICES AND CULTURE, substantially as shown on page 7 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET."

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 126 YES 6 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 8: GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges, for the ensuing year for General Government Debt purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$3,280,000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT SERVICE	\$3,518,977

Summary: The Debt Service budget covers the principal and interest payments due during FY 2023. As of June 30, 2021, the total long-term debt outstanding for the Town of Holden was \$44,788,040, of which \$15,761,946 is considered to be inside the debt limit, and \$29,026,094 to be outside the debt limit, also called exempt debt. Exempt debt has been excluded from the limits of Proposition 2 ½ by ballot votes in previous years, primarily for building Mountview Middle School, the Public Safety building and the new DPW building.

The Debt Service budget increased due to the final borrowing of \$9.2M of long-term debt for the new DPW facility at 18 Industrial Drive. The Town of Holden bond rating remains AA+ by Standard and Poors and AA2 by Moodys. These favorable ratings help to minimize interest expense on our debt issuances.

The debt associated with the renovation and expansion of Wachusett Regional High School is included in the education budget in Article 27 of this warrant.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 8.

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MOTION MADE: Jane Titcomb, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$3,518,977 for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT, substantially as shown on page 8 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$674,104 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, and by transferring \$1,114 from the reserved bond premium in the hands of the Treasurer, and by raising and appropriating \$2,843,759 to cover the balance.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 142 YES 3 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 9: TOWN'S OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) LIABILITY TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, a sum of money to deposit into the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or act do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$478,967	TRANSFER INTO OPEB FUND – GENERAL FUND	\$250,000
\$15,039	TRANSFER INTO OPEB FUND – EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$24,529
\$45,000	TRANSFER INTO OPEB FUND - WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$45,000

Summary: This article represents this year's payment into a fund to provide for future Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for retired personnel of the Town. The Town maintains a continuing obligation for payment of certain retirement and health insurance benefits for former employees, and it is building a fund from which to make these payments in the future, similar to the way we fund future pension obligations for former employees. The FinCom has adopted a policy that requires a contribution equal to 10% of certified free cash or \$250,000, whichever is greater. However, given the economic uncertainty that many Holden residents are facing this year, the FinCom decided to fund OPEB at the minimum level only, and not at the 10% of free cash calculation, which would have resulted in a contribution of \$519,110. Certain employees have a portion of their compensation withheld to be put into the OPEB Fund as well, and this article authorizes the deposit of those contributions to the fund. This article also transfers the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund's annual OPEB contribution into the fund for the benefit of those employees. To date, the OPEB fund has \$8.8M, which is estimated to be approximately 40% of the total liability. Maintaining this fund improves our credit rating and ensures our employees of receiving the benefits that they have earned.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 9.

MOTION MADE: Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town deposit \$319,529 into the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund and meet said deposit by:

- (i) Transferring \$24,529 as received by the Town pursuant to employee contribution programs for Other Post-Employment Benefits established by the Town Manager;

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- (ii) transferring \$250,000 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer; and transferring \$45,000 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash in the hands of the Treasurer.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 138 YES 7 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 10: GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND, OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION STABILIZATION FUND, FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE, APPARATUS AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer: (i) a sum of money to be added to the General Stabilization Fund; all funds established pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$150,000	TRANSFER INTO GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND	\$150,000
\$50,000	TRANSFER INTO OPEN SPACE STABILIZATION FUND	\$0
\$100,000	TRANSFER INTO FIRE VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND	\$0

Summary: The General Stabilization Fund is essentially a 'rainy day' savings account, which collects funds that can be used to pay for a wide variety of future operations and purchases. It is therefore different than other stabilization funds, which can only be used for very specific purposes. This year the Finance Committee is recommending a \$150,000 contribution to the General Stabilization Fund, which will result in a total fund balance of approximately \$5.2M.

The Open Space Stabilization Fund collects monies that can be appropriated by voters to acquire real property within the town to be held and maintained as open space. In FY 2021, the Open Space Fund contributed \$250,000 towards the purchase of approximately 100 acres of undeveloped land off of Salisbury Street in partnership with the White Oak Land Conservation Society. Given the economic uncertainty that many Holden residents are facing, the FinCom decided not to add money to this fund this year. The total fund balance is approximately \$220,000.

The Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund is a means of saving for future significant capital expenditures by the Fire Department. A \$325,000 ambulance planned to be purchased in FY 23 will be purchased using money made available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the federal government's 2021 response to the COVID-19 crisis. This has lessened the need to build up this fund, so no contribution is planned for this year. Currently, the fund has a balance of approximately \$418,000.

All expenditures from these funds require a 2/3 majority approval at a Town Meeting. There are no planned expenditures from these funds in FY 2023.

It is important to note that healthy savings accounts not only smooth out future tax increases, but they also help the Town's credit rating, which, in turn, drives down the Town's cost of borrowing funds.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 10.

MOTION MADE: David White, Finance Committee

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The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$150,000 for deposit into the General Stabilization Fund.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 134 YES 11 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 11 – PUBLIC SAFETY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges, for the ensuing year for Public Safety purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$6,202,997	PUBLIC SAFETY	\$6,561,074

Summary: The Public Safety budget funds the activities of the Police and Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance), Emergency Management, the Animal Control Officer, and the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications (Dispatch) Center.

The Police Department budget of \$2.7M increased by \$137,060, or 5.3%. This increase is primarily attributable to contractual increases in salaries, wages and benefits, as well as higher fuel costs.

The Dispatch Center provides emergency communications services for Holden, Princeton, Paxton and West Boylston. Each town pays a portion of the support for the department. Holden needs to budget for the entire expense of the Center to authorize payment of its expenses, even a substantial majority of those costs will be covered by the other towns and the state reimbursement. The FY23 budget of \$872,862 has increased by \$90,307, or 11.5% from last year, due primarily to increasing compensation for dispatchers to market rates, in order to slow turnover of personnel. Anticipated revenue from member communities is \$351,650, and state grant revenue is anticipated to be \$504,000, which combined, will fund the majority of the costs budgeted here.

The Animal Control budget is \$80,765, increasing by \$5,610, or 7.5%, due to wage increases and an increased fuel budget.

The Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service Department (Ambulance or EMS) budget of \$2.6M increased by \$125,891, or 5.1% for FY 2023, due primarily to contractual increases in salaries and wages and increased fuel costs. Also, a significant portion of this increase is the result of the Town now shouldering all of the salaries of the 6 new firefighters hired in FY 2021 under a SAFER grant. Offsetting efficiencies gained through reduced overtime were first realized in prior years, and therefore, do not show a reduction this year. This budget will be partially paid for by estimated revenue of \$910,000 paid by users of ambulance services.

The Emergency Management Office funds and equips the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is the group of volunteers who maintain preparedness for future emergencies. The budget is

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\$101,889, and it has been increased \$6,209 for FY 2022, primarily due to an accounting change to show certain benefit expenses totaling \$4,336 in this department rather than grouping them into the Fire budget, as had been done previously.

The Public Safety building has its own budget of \$200,500, so that the costs associated with this facility may be monitored closely. This budget decreased by \$7,000 in FY 2023 due to lower costs related to maintenance, offset by higher fuel costs.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 11.

MOTION MADE: Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$6,561,074 for the proposed budget for PUBLIC SAFETY, substantially as shown on page 10 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$504,000 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, by transferring \$25,000 from the Wachusett Fund, and by raising and appropriating \$6,032,074 to cover the balance; and to further authorize the Town Manager to transfer from the Town Manager Salary & Wages account various sums to the Salary & Wages accounts of other Town Departments, as the Town Manager may deem advisable to effect adjustments of salaries and wages in the ensuing fiscal year.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 138 YES 8 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 12 – PUBLIC WORKS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges, for the ensuing year for Public Works purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$3,339,810	PUBLIC WORKS	\$3,556,571

Summary: The Department of Public Works budget includes:

Administration Division (DPW Director and staff)

Engineering Division (project planning & supervision)

Highway Division (road repair, maintenance and snow removal)

Building and Grounds Division (maintenance of buildings, fields, and cemeteries)

Mechanics Division (repair/maintenance of vehicles, and equipment)

Garage Division (DPW garage facility)

The Public Works budget increased \$216,761 (6.4%) for FY 2023. The major initiative is \$100,000 to remove trees in and around Dawson Recreation to allow an expansion of the fields and a pathway to Industrial Drive, where the Town would like to build additional fields. The remaining increase is due to normal salary and wage increases, plus higher fuel and utilities costs.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 12.

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MOTION MADE: Alan Berg, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$3,556,571 for the proposed budget for PUBLIC WORKS, substantially as shown on page 11 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$109,068 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, transferring \$5,000 from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund, and by raising and appropriating \$3,442,503 to cover the balance, and to further authorize the Town Manager to transfer from the Town Manager Salary & Wages account various sums to the Salary & Wages accounts of other Town Departments, as the Town Manager may deem advisable to effect adjustments of salaries and wages in the ensuing fiscal year.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 140 YES 4 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 13 – PUBLIC WORKS DEPRECIATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer a sum of money to be added to the Public Works Depreciation Fund, created by Chapter 328 of the Acts of 2000, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$75,000	TRANSFER INTO PUBLIC WORKS DEPRECIATION FUND	\$0
\$0	TRANSFER INTO PUBLIC WORKS DEPRECIATION FUND	\$0

Summary: The Public Works Depreciation Fund was established to save money to fund large equipment purchases for the DPW. It was intended to minimize fluctuations in the DPW budget from year-to-year and currently has a balance of approximately \$765,000. We have been deferring the purchase of many vehicles, some quite expensive, in recent years, resulting in an aging fleet that will need replacing in coming years. However, given the economic uncertainty that many Holden residents are facing, the FinCom decided not to add money to this fund this year. Expenditures from this fund require a 4/5 approval vote from a Town Meeting. There are no planned expenditures this year.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 13.

MOTION MADE: Alan Berg, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town take no action under this article.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 110 YES 12 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 14 – CHAPTER 90 STATE HIGHWAY AID

To see if the Town will vote to accept and authorize the expenditure of all monies to be received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 90 of the General Laws for highway purposes, or any

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other legislation adopted by the General Court relating to public works, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14		
FY 2022		FY 2023
N/A	CHAPTER 90 STATE HIGHWAY AID	N/A

Summary: This article is a legal formality that allows the Town to accept and spend state assistance received under the provisions of MGL Chapter 90. Chapter 90 is a state reimbursement program. Once the Town expends money on road maintenance, it can file for reimbursement under this program. The funds are explicitly reserved for highway (including roads and sidewalks) related projects and expenses. In FY 2023, the Town is eligible for an estimated \$633,657 in Chapter 90 reimbursements, which is consistent with prior years. Planned expenses include various major road reconstruction and paving projects, as well as sidewalk work.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 14.

MOTION MADE: Alan Berg, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to accept and authorize the expenditure of all monies to be received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 90 of the General Laws for highway purposes, or any other legislation as may be adopted by the General Court relating to public works.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 140 YES 2 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 15 – CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or authorize the borrowing of a sum of money to defray the expense of purchasing and/or leasing Capital equipment, vehicles, buildings, infrastructure, or other projects of the Town and to fund future Town debt related to these projects, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$708,000	CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION	\$1,245,500

Summary: This article funds certain capital purchases for all Town departments, except those of the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund (Article 17 authorizes those purchases). Of this year's appropriation, \$361,500 is for road maintenance, improvement and equipment, \$400,000 for buildings and grounds equipment and vehicles, while \$220,000 is for Public Safety equipment, including two new Police cruisers and a Fire Department squad car. \$220,000 is for repairs to various bridges and at the landfill, plus \$44,000 for technology purchases, and work at the library and Senior Center. The last two year's capital plans have been very limited in order to minimize tax increases, but these purchases cannot be deferred indefinitely. The significant increase in this year's budget reflects a return to a more normal level of spending and the urgent need to buy certain equipment and vehicles. We are not tapping the depreciation account for these acquisitions because the capital plan contains even larger purchases in the

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next few years, again, partially the result of aggressively deferring purchases for the past few years. A complete list of proposed capital purchases can be found on page 29 at the end of this document.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 15.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Adams, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,245,500 for the purpose of acquiring capital items substantially as shown on page 29 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK FY 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET," and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$1,167,444 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, transferring \$25,000 from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund, and by transferring \$53,056 from unused bond proceeds authorized at the May 15, 2017 Annual Town Meeting under Article 15 for the purchase of a loader as described in the FY18 capital budget.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 145 YES 5 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 16 – WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay debts and charges for the ensuing year for Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$8,292,577	WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND – OPERATING EXPENSES	\$9,119,261

Summary: Water and sewer services are provided through the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund. The income from water and sewer bills goes into the fund, and all expenses, such as water purchased from Worcester and sewage transport and processing charges, are paid from this fund. No tax money goes into this fund. This budget is increasing by \$826,684 (10.0%) from FY 2022, reflecting increases in sewage transportation and treatment, the cost of purchasing water from Worcester, and debt service. The Board of Selectmen has increased the water and sewer rates to cover these higher costs.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 16.

MOTION MADE: David White, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,960,213, to pay direct debts and charges for the ensuing year, and to transfer the sum of \$159,048 to the general fund to cover indirect costs for the ensuing year, for a total appropriation of \$9,119,261 for the proposed budget for the WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, substantially as shown on page 12 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$577,500 from Water/Sewer Enterprise free cash in the hands of the Treasurer and raising the sum of \$8,541,761 through fees and charges.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 112 YES 6 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

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ARTICLE 17 – WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or authorize the borrowing of a sum of money to defray the expense of purchasing and/or leasing capital equipment, vehicles, buildings, infrastructure, or other projects of the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Capital budget and to fund future Town debt related to these projects, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$1,900,000	WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND - CAPITAL	\$2,898,500

Summary: This article authorizes borrowing \$2,450,000 and using \$448,500 for capital purchases for the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund. \$1.5M is budgeted for water main replacement and/or lining, \$700,000 for sewer pump station upgrades, \$50,000 for water meter replacements and \$520,000 for other water system improvements. The remaining budget is for various vehicles and equipment. A complete list of proposed capital purchases can be found on page 29 at the end of this document.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 17.

MOTION MADE: David White, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,898,500 for the purpose of acquiring capital items substantially as shown on page 29 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK FY 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET," and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$448,500 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund free cash in the hands of the Treasurer, and by borrowing the sum of \$2,450,000 under G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or Section 8, or any other enabling authority, which borrowing relates to the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund for Water Main Replacement and/or lining, Sewer Pump Station Repairs, and Water Meter Replacements and to that end that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds and notes therefore totaling \$2,450,000 and in accordance with Chapter 44 Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any Bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuances of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs, and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each project be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

2/3RDS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 141 YES 7 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED WITH A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 18 – SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay debts and charges for the ensuing year for Solid Waste Enterprise fund purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

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ARTICLE 18		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$1,410,273	SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND	\$1,602,601

Summary: The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund provides curbside trash collection and recycling services. The income from trash removal bills goes into the fund and all solid waste expenses are paid from this fund. No tax money goes into this fund. The budget is up \$192,238, or 13.6%, due primarily to increases in trash and recycling collection costs and disposal fees. These increases are larger than usual due to the underlying contracts expiring in June 2022 and having to be renegotiated during a slump in worldwide demand for recycled materials, which increases the cost of a recycling program.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 18.

MOTION MADE: Jane Titcomb, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,589,953, to pay direct debts and charges for the ensuing year and to transfer the sum of \$12,648 to the general fund to cover indirect costs for the ensuing year, for a total appropriation of \$1,602,601, for the proposed budget for the SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND, substantially as shown on page 13 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$205,000 from Solid Waste Enterprise free cash in the hands of the Treasurer and raising the sum of \$1,397,601 through fees and charges.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 137 YES 7 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 19 – AMEND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to:

- (i) amend the Recreation Department Revolving Fund, as set forth in Article II, Section 5 of the General Bylaws to include fees, charges, and other receipts of before and after school programs operated by the Recreation Department and to delete the restriction listed therein; and
- (ii) rescind the acceptance of MGL c. 44, section 53D relative to the establishment of a revolving fund for before and after school programs operated by the Recreation Department and to authorize the transfer of all of the funds in such account to the Recreation Department Revolving Fund established and operating under Article II, Section 5 of the General Bylaws, or act or do anything relative thereto.

Summary: For many years the activities of the Recreation Department have been accounted for under two separate funds. 1) The Recreation Revolving Fund accounted for various exercise, recreation and artistic programs, collecting fees for those programs and paying the expenses of running the programs, and; 2) The Before and After School Program Fund provided child care, collecting fees for those programs and paying the expenses of running the programs. Several of the same people and locations are used in both of these programs. In recent years it has become clear that this overlap is an inefficient arrangement that takes time to correctly allocate expenses between, while providing little value. This article proposes

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merging the two funds together to streamline the management and accounting for the activities. This proposal is strictly an accounting change, and will not impact the programs made available or their cost.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 19.

MOTION MADE: David White, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to:

Amend Article II, Section 5, subsection 5.05, by revising the revolving fund listed in the table therein for the Recreation Department by inserting in existing text listed under Column C, "Fee, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to the Fund" the additional terms: "before and after school programs"; and by deleting the text listed under Column E, "Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable From Fund" in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the word, "None";

and;

Revoke the Town's acceptance on May 20, 1996, of General Law Chapter 44, section 53D relative to the establishment of a revolving fund for before and after school programs operated by the Recreation Department and to transfer all of the funds in such account into the Recreation Department Revolving Fund established and operating under Article II, Section 5, subsection 5.05 of the General Bylaws, provided, however, that the transferred funds shall not be used for the purpose of paying any wages or salaries for full-time Recreation Department employees.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 137 YES 2 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 20 – RECREATION REVOLVING FUND, INSPECTION REVOLVING FUND, PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED FUND

To see if the Town will vote to set the Fiscal Year 2023 spending limits for the Recreation Revolving Fund and the Inspection Revolving Fund, both as established in Article II, Section 5 of the General By-laws, and set the annual appropriation for the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, established in accordance with the General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F $\frac{3}{4}$, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$819,065	RECREATION REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL LIMIT	\$1,049,061
\$276,783	INSPECTION REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL LIMIT	\$247,259
\$357,948	PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED FUND	\$387,230

Summary: The Recreation Department operates the town pool, recreation and before/after school programs year-round for residents. Revenue generated from user fees is deposited into the recreation revolving fund, which is then used to pay expenses. No tax money goes into this fund. The budget increase of \$229,996 (28.1%) is due mainly to increased personnel costs driven by the creation of an Assistant Recreation Director position, the addition of 2 new pool deck supervisor positions for high

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usage times and a need to increase wages for the seasonal pool staff. There are \$45,000 of planned capital expenditures in FY 2022, primarily pool and court upgrades.

The Inspection Revolving Fund is funded by building, electrical, plumbing and other permit fees. No tax money goes into this fund. All inspection and support activities are paid from this fund. The \$29,524, or 10.7%, decrease in this year's budget is due to last year's budget purchasing a vehicle for the Building Inspector, in order to reduce long-term transportation reimbursement costs for the Town. All other expenses are virtually unchanged, so the proposed budget has declined by approximately the cost of the vehicle.

Holden Community Television provides the programming seen on Charter Cable Channels 191, 192 and 194. These operations are budgeted in the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund. The revenue in this fund comes from an annual grant from Charter Communications, as required by our contract with them. No tax money goes into this fund. The \$29,282 increase in this budget is driven by the need to modernize certain equipment for the HD era.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 20.

MOTION MADE: Joseph Dolak, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town:

- (i) set the Fiscal Year 2023 spending limit for the Recreation Revolving fund at \$1,049,061;
- (ii) set the Fiscal Year 2023 spending limit for the Inspection Revolving Fund at \$247,259; and
- (iii) set the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation for the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund at \$387,230.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 132 YES 6 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 21 –EMINENT DOMAIN – SHREWSBURY STREET

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or taking by eminent domain, any parcels of real property, permanent easements, and temporary easements, for public way purposes, including without limitation drainage, utility, slope, grading, road realignment, sidewalks, construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, as may be necessary to complete the MassDOT Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, said parcels and easement areas being generally shown on a plan entitled "Holden; Shrewsbury Street, Project File No. 609219", on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available for public inspection during regular business hours, and as may be amended through final project design; and further to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money to be expended for engineering, design, and other associated services, and for the acquisition of said parcels of real property and easements, including but not limited to acquisition costs, the award of eminent domain damages, and related expenses and fees, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or taking by eminent domain, parcels of real property, permanent easements, and temporary easements, for public way purposes, including without limitation drainage, utility, slope, grading, road realignment, sidewalks, construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, as may be necessary to complete the MassDOT Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, said parcels and easement areas being generally shown on a plan entitled "Holden; Shrewsbury Street, Project File No. 609219", and as may be amended through final project design; and further to

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transfer the sum of \$140,000 from available funds held by the Treasurer and received under the Chapter 90 program, so called, to be expended for engineering, design, and other associated services, and for the acquisition of said parcels of real property and easements, including but not limited to acquisition costs, the award of eminent domain damages, and related expenses and fees.

2/3RDS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 73 YES 71 NO

MOTION DOES NOT PASS AS VOTED WITHOUT A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 22 – USE OF TOWN HALL

To see if the Town will vote to permit the use of the Town Hall for the next year at less than the fair rental value by: John E. Harkins Post #42 American Legion, Boy and Girl Scout Troops of Holden, Women's Auxiliary of the John E. Harkins Post #42, the Holden Baseball Program, Inc., League of Women Voters, 4-H Club, Rainbow Girls, the Grange, the White Oak Land Conservation Society, Inc., Holden Citizens for Responsible Energy, Holden Republican Town Committee, Holden Democratic Town Committee, Holden for Children, and Friends of Eagle Lake, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Mulroy, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to permit the use of the Town Hall for the next year at less than the fair rental value by: John E. Harkins Post #42 American Legion, Boy and Girl Scout Troops of Holden, Women's Auxiliary of the John E. Harkins Post #42, the Holden Baseball Program, Inc., League of Women Voters, 4-H Club, Rainbow Girls, the Grange, the White Oak Land Conservation Society, Inc., Holden Citizens for Responsible Energy, Holden Republican Town Committee, Holden Democratic Town Committee, Holden for Children, and Friends of Eagle Lake.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 126 YES 2 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 23 – MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT EXCESS INCOME

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sum of \$159,293 of the excess of the income of the Municipal Light Department for the calendar years 2022 and 2023 over and above the total expense of the plant as defined in the General Laws, as an item of income to be used by the Assessors in establishing the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Geraldine Herlihy, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to authorize the sum of \$159,293 of the excess of income of the Municipal Light Department for the calendar years 2022 and 2023 over and above the total expense of the plant as defined in the General Laws, be transferred as income to the Assessors for use in establishing the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 113 YES 5 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 24 – MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT STABILIZATION FUNDS

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To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the operation and maintenance of the Municipal Light Department and its Depreciation, Construction and Rate Stabilization Funds, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Geraldine Herlihy, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote that the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers, of electricity supplied to municipal buildings, and for municipal power, and of sales of appliances and from jobbing during the calendar year commencing January 1, 2022, be appropriated for the Municipal Light Department, the whole to be expended for the expense of the department for said calendar year, and that if the income exceeds the expense of the department for said calendar year, such part thereof as the Town may vote shall be retained by the Town Treasurer in accordance with applicable law and any further excess shall be transferred to the Depreciation Fund, the Construction Fund, and the Rate Stabilization Fund of said Municipal Light Plant as may be hereafter authorized by the Board of Light Commissioners as outlined in General Laws, Chapter 164, Section 57.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 126 YES 4 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 25 – STREET ACCEPTANCE: DANIELLE LANE

To see what action the Town will take relative to accepting streets and authorizing the acquisition of related interests in real estate, according to plans filed with the Town Clerk after approval by the Selectmen and referrals to the Planning Board for a report, or act or do anything relative thereto..

MOTION MADE: Geraldine Herlihy, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to accept as a town way Danielle Lane, as shown on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan Danielle Lane, Holden, Massachusetts," dated April 19, 2022, said way having been laid out by vote of the Board of Selectmen on May 2, 2022, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or taking by eminent domain all interests in said way and any ancillary interests deemed necessary to establish Danielle Lane as a public way.

MOTION SECONDED

SCOTT CARLSON, PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE PLANNING BOARD STATING THE PLANNING BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF DANIELLE LANE

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 112 YES 10 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 26 – EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL & OUT OF DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of Treasurer, or from any other available funds, a sum of money to pay Town debts and charges, for the

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ensuing year for Vocational Education/Out of District Placement purposes, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$1,022,372	EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL & OUT OF DISTRICT	\$1,279,080

Summary: This article is primarily the \$1.2M assessment to Holden from the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District, which provides a very valuable educational alternative for Holden students. The underlying Montachusett budget is increasing by 7.8%, which is higher than normal, driven by decreased state aid for transportation and the need for higher-than-normal expenditures to maintain the building and its heating and ventilating systems. This article's increase of \$256,708, or 25.1%, is driven by the underlying budget increase as well as the number of Holden students attending the school rising to 107, from 88, a 23.9% increase. This article also provides \$59,700 for tuition and transportation for a student to attend a different vocational high school, as provided for by state law.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 26.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$1,279,080 for VOCATIONAL EDUCATION which is a part of the Proposed Education Budget, as printed on page 16 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2023 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET."

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 120 YES 10 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 27 – EDUCATION - WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer a sum of money not to exceed \$33,806,436 for the Town's share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District, such sum to include the Town's so-called required Local Minimum Contribution, debt service, transportation and an additional sum to supplement the required Local Minimum Contribution, for the ensuing fiscal year.

ARTICLE 27		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$32,969,402	EDUCATION – WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$33,806,436

Summary: This article funds Holden's share of the Wachusett Regional School District, (WRSD), including the state-mandated Minimum Local Contribution, the voluntary operational assessment, transportation and debt service on the High School renovation and expansion. The WRSD assessment for FY 2023 has increased \$837,034 (2.5%) from last year and it fully funds the WRSD budget recommended by the School Committee. The Town Manager and the Finance Committee have no say in the development of this budget. We are required to present the School Committee's assessment at this meeting.

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The WRSD receives 32% of its funding from the state, and the rest comes from the member towns. This year, the WRSD saw an 8.7% increase in anticipated state aid, totaling over \$2.7M. This increase was driven by an unusually large 4.5% inflation adjustment, higher state aid per pupil rates and an increase in student population (driven by the return of students after pandemic driven withdrawals in the prior year), combined with a large increase in the state-set foundation budget.

The WRSD budget increased by 4.3%, driven primarily by increased health insurance and transportation costs. Transportation costs are increasing after the last two years had unusually low costs due to remote learning eliminating a significant number of the days that transportation was required. This transportation budget is a return to a full year's normal usage, and is also increased for anticipated fuel cost increases.

Using the increased state aid to reduce the impact of the budget increase, the WRSD assessment for Holden increased 2.5%.

In December 2021, 4 of the 5 regional towns sent written requests to the school district that assessments to the towns be increased by no more than 2.5%. This budget achieves that request.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate:

- (i) the sum of \$25,152,399 for the Town's share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year, such sum includes the Town's so-called required Local Minimum Contribution, debt service and transportation; and
- (ii) the sum of \$8,654,037 as an additional appropriation for the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year, to supplement the appropriation in part (i);

It being understood that by appropriating a total sum of \$33,806,436 to the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District, the Town thereby approves a budget of \$109,086,381 for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Wachusett Regional School District.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 27.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 116 YES 19 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 28 – BYLAW AMENDMENT TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL TRUSTEES

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article V, Part 2, Section 1 of the General By-laws by inserting the following sentence after the first sentence therein:

Only residents of the Town shall be qualified to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Anthony Renzoni, Finance Committee

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The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to amend Article V, Part 2, Section 1 of the General Bylaws as printed in the Warrant.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 89 YES 33 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 29 – AMEND DOG LICENSING FEES

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 10 of the Town Bylaws, entitled "License/Permit Fees" by replacing the Town Clerk's fee schedule for dog licenses and kennel licenses in its entirety, with the following:

DOGS

LICENSES

January 1 – April 15	Spayed/neutered \$10	Intact \$15
April 16 – December 31	Spayed/neutered \$35	Intact \$40
	(\$25 late fee added after April 15)	

KENNELS

January 1 to April 15		April 16
4 Dogs	\$20	\$40
10 Dogs	\$40	\$80
Unlimited	\$60	\$120

(includes a dog licensed before six months of age or within 30 days of acquisition if the dog is older)

Spayed/neutered	\$10
Intact	\$15

REPLACEMENT TAG \$1

TRANSFER LICENSE \$2

SERVICE DOGS AND OWNERS 70 OR OLDER

Exempt from paying the fee but still must register their dog(s)

Or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 10 of the Town Bylaws, entitled "License/Permit Fees", by revising the sections under "Town Clerk", for Dogs and Kennels, as shown in the Warrant.

MOTION SECONDED

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ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 114 YES 4 NO
MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 30 – DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS – SENIOR CENTER

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II, Section 5 of the Town's General By-Laws, entitled "Departmental Revolving Funds", by adding a revolving fund for the Senior Center in the "Table of

A. Revolving Fund	B. Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	C. Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	D. Program or Activity Expenses Payable From Fund	E. Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable From Fund	F. Other Requirements/ Reports	G. Fiscal Years
Senior Center	Council on Aging	Fees charged and received by the Council on Aging for programs/ Classes and for day or weekly programs offered at the Senior Center, as well as meals.	To pay for programs, classes, activities, food and events for seniors at the Senior Center, including equipment and supplies, and to pay for improvements and repairs to the Senior Center.	None, other than as set forth in this Bylaw.	None, other than as set forth in this Bylaw and by Town Meeting vote.	Fiscal Year 2023 and subsequ ent years

Authorized Revolving Funds", as set forth in Subsection 5.05, to read as follows:

and to set the fiscal year 2023 spending limit for the Senior Center Revolving Fund, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30		
FY 2022		FY 2023
\$0	SENIOR CENTER REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL LIMIT	\$20,000

This article establishes a new Revolving Fund to record, hold and disburse money collected by the Senior Center for various programs and activities that they run throughout the year. No tax money goes into this fund. Establishing this fund will provide more transparency in the tracking and accounting for these fees and expenses. This article also sets the maximum amount that can be expended from the fund during the year.

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Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 30.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Adams, Finance Committee

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to amend Article II, Section 5 of the Town's General By-Laws, entitled "Departmental Revolving Funds", by adding a revolving fund for the Senior Center in Subsection 5.05, the "Table of Authorized Revolving Funds", as shown in the Warrant, and to set the Fiscal Year 2023 spending limit for the Senior Center Revolving Fund at \$20,000.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 115 YES 2 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 31 – WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE WEIGHTED VOTING

To see if the Town will vote to approve an amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement as proposed by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, to amend Section 1 of the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement to Change the Committee Membership to Weighted Voting.

A copy of the proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement is on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available for public inspection during regular hours of Town Hall; or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Michael Dennis, WRSD Representative

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to approve the amendments of Section 1 of the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement to Change the Committee Membership to Weighted Voting.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 104 YES 12 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 32 – WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REGIONAL AGREEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to approve an amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement as proposed by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, amend Sections 11.3 and 11.4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement and to add a Section 11.5, all regarding assignment of students.

A copy of the proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement is on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available for public inspection during regular hours of Town Hall; or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Michael Dennis, WRSD Representative

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to approve the amendments to Sections 11.3 and 11.4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement and to add a Section 11.5, all regarding assignment of students.

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MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 99 YES 10 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 33 – WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REGIONAL AGREEMENT, SECTION 16

To see if the Town will vote to approve an amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement as proposed by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, to amend Section 16 of the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement regarding capital expenditures and to provide for renumbering of sections of the Agreement.

A copy of the proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement is on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available for public inspection during regular hours of Town Hall; or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Michael Dennis, WRSD Representative

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to approve the amendments to Section 16 of the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement regarding capital expenditures and to provide for renumbering of sections of the Agreement.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 101 YES 14 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

ARTICLE 34 – CONVEYANCE OF PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for a special legislation, as set forth herein, to enable the Town to convey two parcels of Town-owned land to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in exchange for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts conveying two parcels of State-owned land to the Town, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves the amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition:

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE BY AND BETWEEN THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION AND THE TOWN OF HOLDEN

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of general law chapter 30B or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Holden may convey the following to parcels of land to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

- A parcel located off of North Street in Holden and shown on Assessors' Map 44 as Parcel 3, containing approximately 9.67 acres of land; and
- A parcel located off of Meadow Wood Drive in Holden and shown on Assessors' Map 161 as Parcel 3, containing approximately 11.65 acres of land.

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SECTION 2. In exchange for and in consideration of the conveyances of the two parcels from the town of Holden identified in Section 1, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Conservation and Recreation, may convey to the Town the following two parcels of land, located in Holden:

- A parcel located off of Salisbury Street in Holden and shown on Assessors' Map 186 as Parcels 5, containing approximately 9.75 acres; and
- A parcel of land locate off of Salisbury Street in Holden and shown on Assessors' Map 186 as Parcel 8, Parcel ID No. 7216, containing approximately 8.66 acres of land.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.
Or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to:

Authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation as printed in the Warrant; and

Authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey two parcels of Town-owned land, said parcels being located off of North Street and shown on Assessors Map 44 as Parcel 3 and located off of Meadow Wood Drive and shown on Assessors Map 161 as Parcel 3, to the Commonwealth, in exchange for and in consideration of the Commonwealth conveying to the Town two parcels of land, said parcels being located off of Salisbury Street and shown on Assessors Map 186 as Parcel 5 and Parcel 8.

MOTION SECONDED

ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS: 113 YES 3 NO

MOTION PASSES AS VOTED

MOTION MADE

To adjourn the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

TOWN MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:21PM

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022 Voted Budget		FY2023 Recommended Budget
ARTICLE 6 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
1,900,246	Salary & Wages	1,932,778
5,124,212	Expense	5,379,194
150,000	Reserve Fund	150,000
7,174,458	Total General Government	7,461,972
Moderator		
100	Salary & Wages	100
65	Expense	65
165		165
Finance Committee		
1,786	Expense	1,795
150,000	Reserve Fund	150,000
151,786		151,795
Selectmen		
7,250	Salary & Wages	7,250
33,00	Expense	32,550
40,250		39,800
Town Manager & Personnel		
488,937	Salary & Wages	520,453
21,250	Expense	25,750
510,187		546,203
Information Technology		
267,669	Salary & Wages	273,021
150,647	Expense	143,433
418,316		416,454
Accounting		
208,936	Salary & Wages	218,783
33,200	Expense	30,225
242,136		249,008
Treasury		
232,561	Salary & Wages	239,895
63,650	Expense	70,300
296,211		310,195
Assessors		
189,137	Salary & Expense	194,728
97,050	Wages	58,128
286,187		252,856

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022 Voted Budget		FY2023 Recommended Budget
Legal		
190,000	Expense	205,000
190,000		205,000
Town Clerk		
216,672	Salary & Wages	255,532
40,852	Expense	83,563
257,524		339,095
Planning & Development		
282,984	Salary & Wages	217,016
76,000	Expense	95,874
358,984		312,890
Sealer		
6,000	Salary & Wages	6,000
0	Expense	0
6,000		6,000
Insurance		
2,374,507	Expense	2,385,546
2,374,507		2,385,546
Retirement		
2,042,205	Expense	2,246,965
2,042,205		2,246,965
ARTICLE 7 - HUMAN SERVICES		
967,470	Salary & Wages	1,007,545
351,340	Expense	291,883
1,318,810	Total Human Services	1,364,378
Library		
678,970	Salary & Wages	708,647
251,590	Expense	254,483
930,560		963,130
Senior Citizens		
267,940	Salary & Wages	277,930
30,650	Expense	33,250
298,590		311,180

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022 Voted Budget		FY2023 Recommended Budget
Veterans		
20,560	Salary & Wages	20,968
600	Expense	600
65,000	Aid & Assistance	65,000
86,160		86,568
Historical Comm		
3,500	Expense	3,500
3,500		3,500
ARTICLE 8 - DEBT		
3,126,023	Exempt Debt	3,370,248
153,977	Non-exempt Debt	148,729
3,280,000	Total Debt Service	3,518,977
ARTICLE 9 - OPEB FUND CONTRIBUTIONS		
478,967	Contributions from General Fund	250,000
45,000	Contributions from Water/Sewer	45,000
15,039	Contributions from Employees	24,529
539,006	Total OPEB Fund Contributions	319,529
ARTICLE 10 - GENERAL, OPEN SPACE AND FIRE VEHICLE CONTRIBUTIONS		
150,000	General Stabilization Fund	150,000
50,000	Open Space Fund	0
100,000	Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund	0
300,000	Total General, Open Space and Fire Vehicle	150,000
ARTICLE 11 - PUBLIC SAFETY		
5,392,147	Salary & Wages	5,717,824
810,850	Expense	843,250
6,202,997	Total Public Safety	6,561,074
Police		
2,341,354	Salary & Wages	2,464,614
237,700	Expense	251,500
2,579,054		2,716,114
Animal Control		
65,955	Salary & Wages	69,165
9,200	Expense	11,600
75,155		80,765

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022		FY2023
Voted Budget		Recommended Budget
Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS)		
2,160,303	Salary & Wages	2,263,994
302,750	Expense	324,950
2,463,053		2,588,944
Public Safety Complex		
207,500	Expense	200,500
207,500		200,500
Regional Dispatch		
738,855	Salary & Wages	828,162
43,700	Expense	44,700
782,555		872,862
Emergency Management		
85,680	Salary & Wages	91,889
10,000	Expense	10,000
95,680		101,889
ARTICLE 12 - PUBLIC WORKS		
1,640,250	Salary & Wages	1,655,271
1,179,560	Expense	1,381,300
520,000	Snow Removal	520,000
3,339,810	Total Public Works	3,556,571
Administration		
200,636	Salary & Wages	204,649
10,550	Expense	11,750
211,186		216,399
Engineering		
171,191	Salary & Wages	173,156
210,710	Expense	205,950
381,901		388,106
Highway		
576,286	Salary & Wages	583,977
435,950	Expense	463,250
520,000	Snow Removal	520,000
1,532,236		1,567,227
Mechanics		
205,812	Salary & Wages	198,600
18,300	Expense	20,400
224,112		219,000

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022 Voted Budget		FY2023 Recommended Budget
	Building and Grounds	
486,325	Salary & Wages	494,889
419,150	Expense	546,050
905,475		1,040,939

84,900	Garage	
84,900	Expense	124,900
		124,900

		FY2023 Recommended Budget
	ARTICLE 13 - DPW DEPRECIATION FUND	
75,000	DPW Depreciation Fund	0
75,000	Total DPW Depreciation Fund	0

	ARTICLE 14 - CHAPTER 90 STATE HIGHWAY AID	
0	Chapter 90 State Highway Aid	0
0	Total Chapter 90 State Highway Aid	0

	ARTICLE 15 - CAPITAL BUDGET	
708,000	Capital Budget - General Fund	1,245,500
708,000	Total Capital Budget - General Fund	1,245,500

	ARTICLE 16 - WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	
719,172	Salary & Wages	730,115
7,316,005	Expense	8,130,098
157,400	Indirect Costs	159,048
100,000	Emergency Reserve	100,000
8,392,577	TOTAL WATER/SEWER	9,119,261

	ARTICLE 17 - WATER / SEWER CAPITAL BUDGET	
1,900,000	Capital Budget - Water / Sewer	2,898,500
1,900,000	Total Capital Budget - Water / Sewer	2,898,500

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022 Voted Budget		FY2023 Recommended Budget
ARTICLE 18 - SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND		
53,139	Salary & Wages	52,829
1,344,734	Expense	1,537,124
12,400	Indirect Costs	12,468
1,410,273	Total Solid Waste	1,602,601
ARTICLE 20 - CONTINUE REVOLVING FUNDS		
790,547	Salary & Wages	872,863
551,714	Expense	683,520
31,535	Indirect Costs	32,167
80,000	Capital Outlay	95,000
1,453,796	Total Revolving Funds	1,683,550
Recreation		
280,472	Salary & Wages	613,591
159,621	Expense	342,305
36,165	Indirect Costs	48,165
0	Capital Outlay	45,000
476,258		1,049,061
Inspections		
153,748	Salary & Wages	155,458
81,635	Expense	80,173
11,400	Indirect Costs	11,628
30,000	Capital Outlay	0
276,783		247,259
Cable		
106,815	Salary & Wages	103,814
198,533	Expense	230,764
2,600	Indirect Costs	2,652
50,000	Capital Outlay	50,000
357,948		387,230
ARTICLE 26- VOCATIONAL EDUCATION		
962,972	Montachusett Regional High School	1,219,380
59,400	Out of District Vocational	59,700
1,022,372	Total Vocational Education	1,279,080

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY23 BUDGET

FY2022 Voted Budget		FY2023 Recommended Budget
ARTICLE 27 - EDUCATION - WACHUSETT REGIONAL		
20,535,856	WRSD Required	21,404,782
9,143,678	WRSD Voluntary	8,654,037
36,710	Debt-Oil Remediation	33,980
1,038,732	Debt -School Construction	1,061,215
2,214,426	Transportation	2,652,422
32,969,402	Total Education - Wachusett	33,806,436

ARTICLE 30- SENIOR CENTER REVOLVING FUND		
0	Expense	20,000
0		20,000



Red Barn – Photo by Keith Williams

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

FISCAL YEAR 2022 CAPITAL PROGRAM DETAIL

ARTICLES 15 & 17

DEPARTMENT	EXPENDITURE	CASH	BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
FIRE – EMS	Transportation Ventilator	\$20,000			\$20,000
	Squad Car	\$75,000			\$75,000
POLICE	Cruisers (2)	\$125,000			\$125,000
DPW	Culvert / bridge rehabilitation				\$70,000
	Landfill swale repairs				\$150,000
	F550 Truck w/ dump / plow wing #56				\$100,000
	Hazardous tree removal				\$100,000
	Roadside mower #61				\$165,000
	Stand-on leaf blower				\$10,000
	Air compressor				\$25,000
	Electronic message board (50%)				\$11,500
	Roads / Sidewalks				\$325,000
	Cemetery lawn mowers (2)				\$25,000
	Chapter 90			\$633,657	\$615,739
WATER/SEWER	Water Main Replacement and/or Lining		\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
	Sewer Pump Stations		\$700,000		\$700,000
	Inflow / infiltration removal			\$120,000	\$120,000
	Water Meter Replacement			\$50,000	\$100,000
	Spring St water treatment plant			\$100,000	\$100,000
	Chapin and Avery Storage Tank Mixing Systems		\$250,000		\$250,000
	Pipe saw			\$15,000	\$15,000
	Electronic message board (50%)			\$11,500	\$11,500
	F350 w/plow, #2			\$50,000	\$50,000
	F350 w/plow, #3			\$52,000	\$52,000
	F350 w/plow, #50			\$50,000	\$50,000
SENIOR CENTER	Carport for van	\$7,000			\$7,000
RECREATION	Court maintenance			\$15,000	\$15,000
	Pool re-caulking			\$10,000	\$10,000
	Pool consultant			\$20,000	\$20,000
CABLE TV	Studio Camera Upgrade			\$30,000	\$30,000
	Remote studio / upgrade			\$20,000	\$20,000
LIBRARY	Wooden windows feasibility study	\$20,000			\$20,000
TOWN MGR/IT	Simplivity equipment	\$17,000			\$17,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,245,500	\$2,450,000	\$1,177,157	\$4,872,657

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

DEMOCRATC PARTY TALLY SHEET - OFFICIAL							
Vote for One							
GOVERNOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Sonia Rosa Chang-Diaz	45	36	36	57	52	50	276
Maura Healey	312	341	354	326	341	311	1985
Geoff Diehl	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
							0
Blanks	5	10	10	6	10	13	54
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One							
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Kimberley Driscoll	153	164	159	156	160	165	957
Tami Gouveia	78	73	70	81	74	73	449
Eric P. Lesser	107	116	142	115	144	103	727
							0
							0
Blanks	23	34	28	37	25	34	181
Write-ins	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One							
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Andrea Joy Campbell	125	155	147	147	162	158	894
Shannon Erika Liss-Riordan	127	131	150	131	144	115	798
Quentin Palfrey	84	66	82	79	77	74	462
							0
							0
Blanks	24	35	21	32	20	27	159
Write-ins	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Vote for One							
SECRETARY OF STATE	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
William Francis Galvin	258	280	290	269	295	271	1663
Tanisha M. Sullivan	90	93	99	108	95	94	579
							0
							0
Blanks	14	14	11	12	13	10	74
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One							
TREASURER	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Deborah B. Goldberg	301	314	326	330	329	311	1911
							0
							0
Blanks	59	73	74	59	74	63	402
Write-ins	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One							
AUDITOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Christopher S. Dempsey	131	140	158	123	152	153	857
Diana DiZoglio	181	193	202	215	204	178	1173
							0
							0
Blanks	48	54	40	51	47	44	284
Write-ins	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One - Second District							
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
James P. McGovern	324	346	364	361	354	337	2086
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	38	41	35	27	47	37	225
Write-ins	0	0	1	1	2	1	5
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Vote for One - Seventh District							
COUNCILLOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Paul M. DePalo	292	302	320	326	305	304	1849
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	69	84	79	63	97	69	461
Write-ins	1	1	1	0	1	2	6
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One - Worcester & Hampshire District							
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Anne M. Gobi	303	320	333	337	321	321	1935
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	58	67	67	52	81	54	379
Write-ins	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One - First Worcester District							
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
							0
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	353	377	388	382	398	373	2271
Write-ins	9	10	12	7	5	2	45
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One - Middle District							
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Joseph D. Early, Jr.	296	318	333	344	318	323	1932
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	66	66	66	44	83	50	375
Write-ins	0	3	1	1	2	2	9
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Vote for One - Worcester County							
SHERIFF	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
David M. Fontaine	276	276	313	312	296	269	1742
Lew Evangelidis	4	3	1	0	3	2	13
							0
							0
Blanks	82	107	86	77	103	101	556
Write-ins	0	1	0	0	1	3	5
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Ballots cast	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Total Ballots cast	362	387	400	389	403	375	2316

Registered Voters	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party as of August 27, 2022	2443	2416	2480	2539	2561	2517	14956
Voter participation percentage	14.82%	16.02%	16.13%	15.32%	15.74%	14.90%	15.49%

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET - OFFICIAL							
Vote for One							
GOVERNOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Geoff Diehl	113	107	135	113	114	118	700
Chris Doughty	117	112	112	96	105	114	656
							0
							0
Blanks	4	7	5	4	0	4	24
Write-ins	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Leah V. Allen	78	66	73	61	62	82	422
Kate Campanale	140	139	169	141	150	135	874
							0
							0
Blanks	16	21	10	13	7	19	86
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
James R. McMahon, III	175	174	205	177	163	174	1068
							0
							0
Blanks	59	52	47	38	55	62	313
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
SECRETARY OF STATE	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Rayla Campbell	160	171	201	172	161	171	1036
							0
Blanks	74	54	51	42	58	65	344
Write-ins	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Vote for One							
TREASURER	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	233	224	252	214	216	236	1375
Write-ins	1	2	0	1	3	0	7
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
AUDITOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Anthony Amore	162	167	194	172	157	172	1024
							0
							0
Blanks	72	59	58	43	61	64	357
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Jeffrey A. Sossa-Paquette	164	175	195	169	162	173	1038
Lew Evangelidis	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
							0
Blanks	70	51	57	45	56	63	342
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
COUNCILLOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Gary Galonek	158	163	187	165	156	158	987
							0
							0
Blanks	76	63	65	50	63	76	393
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Vote for One							
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
James Anthony Amorello	173	175	198	172	170	175	1063
							0
							0
Blanks	61	51	54	43	48	60	317
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Kimberly N. Ferguson	206	190	214	194	190	206	1200
							0
							0
Blanks	28	36	38	21	29	30	182
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
							0
							0
							0
Blanks	234	225	252	214	218	234	1377
Write-ins	0	1	0	1	1	2	5
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

Vote for One							
SHERIFF	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Lewis G. Evangelidis	200	199	223	190	197	203	1212
							0
							0
Blanks	34	26	29	25	22	32	168
Write-ins	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

<u>Ballots cast</u>	<u>Prec. 1</u>	<u>Prec. 2</u>	<u>Prec. 3</u>	<u>Prec. 4</u>	<u>Prec. 5</u>	<u>Prec. 6</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Total Ballots cast	234	226	252	215	219	236	1382

<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Prec. 1</u>	<u>Prec. 2</u>	<u>Prec. 3</u>	<u>Prec. 4</u>	<u>Prec. 5</u>	<u>Prec. 6</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party as of August 27, 2022	2443	2416	2480	2539	2561	2517	14956
Voter participation percentage	14.82%	16.02%	16.13%	15.32%	15.74%	14.90%	15.49%



Union Pond – Suzanne Mathieu

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Vote for One -To fill a Vacancy							
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Steven B. Cooley	197	190	220	176	161	233	1177
Thomas P. Curran	363	362	397	376	424	341	2263
							0
							0
Blanks	2	26	9	9	12	8	66
Write-ins	0	1	1	1	1	2	6
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	562	579	627	562	598	584	3512

Ballots cast	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Total Ballots cast	562	579	627	562	598	584	3512

Registered Voters	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party as of August 27, 2022	2443	2416	2480	2539	2561	2517	14956
Voter participation percentage	14.82%	16.02%	16.13%	15.32%	15.74%	14.90%	15.49%

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – OCTOBER 17, 2022

At 7:27PM on Monday, October 17, 2022 a Special Town Meeting was held at the Wachusett Regional High School Auditorium at 1401 Main Street in the Town of Holden. Holden Town Bylaws Article 1, Section 5 which states *one percent of the registered voters of the Town shall constitute a quorum*. As of October 7th, the last day to register as a voter there were 15,028 registered voters requiring 150 voters to be in attendance. At 7:45PM, there were five hundred and eighteen (518) registered Holden voters who attended and an additional thirteen (13) guests.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to be recognized by the Moderator:

Jeanne M. Hudson, Town Clerk
Liz Monahan, Assistant Town Clerk
Lori Rose, Town Accountant
Brian Faulk, Town Counsel
Russ Hall, Fire Chief
John Woodsmall, DPW Director
Patrick Wood, DPW
Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor
Laurie Gaudet, Town Treasurer
Mahmoud Elgenedy, Non-registered Holden Resident
Anne M. Gobi, State Senator
Nikki J. Peters, Mass DOT
Greg Russell, VHB

Holden Police Officers:
John Santimore
Todd Ventres
Ray Sherbourne

There were no tellers appointed by the Moderator but on standby were three (3) tellers.

Amy-Laing Bobkowski
Michael Greene
Janet Price

The following Election Workers checked in voters for the ATM:

Connie Hamilton	Bonnie Cassidy
Lisa M. Deciero	Suzanne Lucia

ARTICLE 1 –SHREWSBURY STREET TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or taking by eminent domain any parcels of real property, permanent easements, and temporary easements, for public way purposes, including without limitation, for drainage, utility, slope, grading, road realignment, sidewalks, construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, as may be necessary to complete the Mass DOT Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, said parcels and easement areas being generally shown on a plan entitled "Holden; Shrewsbury Street, Project File NO. 609219", on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available for public inspection during regular business hours, and as may be amended through final project design; and further to raise and appropriate, transfer

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – OCTOBER 17, 2022

from available associated services and for the acquisition of said parcels of real property and easements, including but not limited to acquisition costs, the award of eminent domain damages, and related expenses and fees, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or taking by eminent domain, parcels of real property, permanent easements, and temporary easements, for public way purposes, including without limitation drainage, utility, slope, grading, road realignment, sidewalks, construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, as may be necessary to complete the MassDOT Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, said parcels and easement areas being generally shown on a plan entitled "Holden; Shrewsbury Street, Project File No. 609219", and as may be amended through final project design; and further to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from available funds held by the Treasurer and received under the Chapter 90 Program, so called, for engineering, design, and other associated services, and for the acquisition of said parcels of real property and easements, including but not limited to acquisition costs, the award of eminent domain damages, and related expenses and fees.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR TO MOVE THE QUESTION

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 2 – ATHLETIC FIELDS AT 18 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by borrowing in order to design, construct and equip new athletic fields to be constructed on Town-owned property located at 18 Industrial Drive and to design and construct improvements to and expand the existing athletic fields and replace a playground area located at the Dawson Recreation Area, located at 200 Salisbury Street, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto, and to meet said appropriation, authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes therefore, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to:

- I. Appropriate and borrow the sum of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) to design, construct and equip new athletic fields to be constructed on Town-owned property located at 18 Industrial Drive and to design and construct improvements to and expand the existing athletic fields and to replace a playground area located at the Dawson Recreation Area, located at 200 Salisbury Street, including the payment of costs incidental and related thereto, and

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – OCTOBER 17, 2022

- II. Authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for such purposes, as authorized by MGL Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other general or special law enabling the Town, provided, however, that this appropriation and debt authorization is contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion question pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C(k)

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR TO MOVE THE QUESTION

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3 – PLANNING AND DESIGN OF AN INCLUSIVE ACCESS PLAYGROUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer a sum of money for the planning and design of an Inclusive Access Playground and other recreational amenities and improvements to be constructed and installed on the Town-owned property located at 1 Holden Street, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: David White, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer from the General Stabilization Fund and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for the planning and design of an Inclusive Access Playground and other recreational amenities and improvements to be constructed and installed on the Town-owned property located at 1 Holden Street.

MOTION SECONDED

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

MOTION MADE BY SELECTMEN ANTHONY RENZONI TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

TOWN MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:01PM

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Vote for One -To fill a Vacancy							
Governor and Lieutenant Governor	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Diehl and Allen (Republican)	695	610	655	636	651	650	3897
Healey and Driscoll (Democratic)	835	840	901	889	900	888	5253
Reed and Everett (Libertarian)	24	28	21	21	27	27	148
Write-ins	2	0	0	3	0	0	5
Blanks	15	26	13	18	15	24	111
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Attorney General	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Andrea Joy Campbell (Democratic)	795	785	834	847	860	849	4970
James R. McMahon, III (Republican)	738	670	710	694	697	696	4205
							0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	38	49	46	26	36	44	239
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Secretary of State	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
William Francis Galvin (Democratic)	902	905	975	961	984	975	5702
Rayla Campbell (Republican)	610	534	563	540	548	547	3342
Juan Sanchez (Green-Rainbow Party)	32	31	24	34	37	34	192
							0
Write-ins	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	27	34	28	31	24	33	177
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Treasurer	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Deborah B. Goldberg (Democratic)	959	945	1017	1030	1047	1027	6025
Cristina Crawford (Libertarian)	426	352	392	366	397	377	2310
							0
Write-ins	1	2	1	2	4	2	12
Blanks	185	205	180	169	145	183	1067
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Auditor	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Anthony Amore (Republican)	722	664	738	686	673	692	4175
Diana DiZoglio (Democratic)	666	664	688	716	737	720	4191
Gloria A. Caballero-Roca (Green-Rainbow)	31	29	28	30	39	28	185
Dominic Giannone, III (Workers Party)	37	23	24	30	25	21	160
Daniel Riek (Libertarian)	27	28	21	37	39	44	196
							0
Write-ins	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Blanks	88	95	91	68	78	84	504
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Representative in Congress	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
James P. McGovern (Democratic)	866	871	929	928	956	934	5484
Jeffrey A. Sossa-Paquette (Republican)	673	580	615	594	602	611	3675
							0
Write-ins	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	32	53	46	44	35	44	254
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Councillor	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Paul M. DePalo (Democratic)	823	823	883	890	906	882	5207
Gary Galonek (Republican)	673	594	624	610	623	624	3748
							0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	75	87	83	67	64	83	459
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Vote for One							
Senator in General Court	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Anne M. Gobi (Democratic)	790	784	853	842	863	846	4978
James Anthony Amorello (Republican)	735	664	694	689	681	692	4155
							0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Blanks	46	56	43	36	48	51	280
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Representative in General Court	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Kimberly N. Ferguson (Republican)	1181	1123	1208	1193	1147	1206	7058
							0
Write-ins	12	12	5	2	12	5	48
Blanks	378	369	377	372	434	378	2308
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
District Attorney	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Joseph D. Early, Jr. (Democratic)	1105	1079	1183	1187	1183	1174	6911
							0
Write-ins	8	7	7	3	7	5	37
Blanks	458	418	400	377	403	410	2466
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

Vote for One							
Sheriff	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
Lewis G. Evangelidis (Republican)	1109	1094	1108	1086	1080	1099	6576
David M. Fontaine (Democratic)	415	362	426	425	458	428	2514
							0
Write-ins	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Blanks	47	48	55	55	55	62	322
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

QUESTION 1: State Income Tax 4% Increase	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
YES	703	648	799	762	785	754	4451
NO	839	828	771	789	796	809	4832
Blanks	29	28	20	16	12	26	131
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

QUESTION 2: Dental Benefit Plan	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
YES	1020	991	1084	1063	1128	1042	6328
NO	526	481	475	481	439	525	2927
Blanks	25	32	31	23	26	22	159
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

QUESTION 3: Alcoholic Licenses	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
YES	645	592	640	638	645	619	3779
NO	882	863	893	885	904	915	5342
Blanks	44	49	57	44	44	55	293
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

QUESTION 4: Immigrant Drivers License	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
YES	703	696	757	743	778	713	4390
NO	849	776	798	805	781	844	4853
Blanks	19	32	35	19	34	32	171
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

QUESTION 5: Recreation Debt Exclusion	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Prec. 6	Totals
YES	835	862	923	908	887	879	5294
NO	665	579	598	595	644	633	3714
Blanks	71	63	69	64	62	77	406
Provisionals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
UOCAVA	1	1	0	1	0	2	5
Totals	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

STATE GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Ballots cast	<u>Prec. 1</u>	<u>Prec. 2</u>	<u>Prec. 3</u>	<u>Prec. 4</u>	<u>Prec. 5</u>	<u>Prec. 6</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Total Ballots cast	1571	1504	1590	1567	1593	1589	9414

<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Prec. 1</u>	<u>Prec. 2</u>	<u>Prec. 3</u>	<u>Prec. 4</u>	<u>Prec. 5</u>	<u>Prec. 6</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Total registered voters As of October 29, 2022	2470	2422	2502	2556	2579	2543	15072

Voter participation percentage	63.60%	62.10%	63.55%	61.31%	61.77%	62.49%	62.46%
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Moose – Photo by Suzanne Beer

GENERAL GOVERNMENT



TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Peter M. Lukes – Town Manager (Center Left)
Stephanie C. King – Assistant Town Manager (Left)
Wendy Brouillette – Administrative Assistant (Center Right)
Abby Benoit – Administrative Assistant/Communications (Right)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Anthony M. Renzoni – Chair
Richard Bates– Vice Chair
Stephanie Mulroy - Clerk
Geraldine A. Herlihy
Robert P. Lavigne (resigned April 2022)
Thomas Curran
Elizabeth Fotos - Recording Secretary

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

DPW FACILITY

Supply chain issues slowed down the final touches to the DPW Facility and although we are still waiting on some technological accoutrements to arrive and be installed, the Public Works employees moved into their new facility at the end of 2022. The facility provides a state of the art DPW operation, and is functioning as expected. The facility will provide the town of Holden with decades of outstanding service from public works. In spite of being built during the COVID nation-wide shutdown, the project finished under budget and reasonably on time (three month total delay).



INCLUSIVE ACCESS PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE



This committee was formed by Executive Order at the end of 2021 and members were appointed shortly thereafter. The committee met throughout 2022 and an appropriation was made during the Special Town Meeting through which they received funding for a feasibility study to create an all-inclusive playground and other recreational amenities at One Holden Street in the current recreation space that exists behind the HMLD building.

K-9 UNIT

In early 2022, Holden Police gained a new recruit of the four legged variety. The Holden Police Department received the first installment of a grant to create a new K-9 unit in the amount of \$32,000 in January of 2022. The grant came from the Stanton Foundation and will continue to pay for the subsequent costs of maintaining the unit for the immediate future. Our K-9 Officer, Tahoe, began completed extensive training over the first several months of 2022 and is currently serving the town in full capacity. The HPD held the first 5k road race in October 2022 in order to prepare to take over financial support of the K-9 unit. The race was a great success and will prove to be the only funding source for the K-9 unit in future years.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SAFEST COMMUNITIES

Seven Massachusetts communities, including Holden were ranked among the 100 safest in America for 2022, according to a study by CCTV Camera World after analyzing the most recent FBI crime data through 2020. The security and surveillance systems company says its rankings were determined by measuring crimes per 100,000 residents in more than 7,000 communities across the country.

WOOSOX TOWN TAKEOVER

Holden participated in a joint venture with the Worcester Red Sox for "Hometown" day at the park where several of our locals were honored with accolades such as "Hometown Hero" (Veterans Agent Brad Sherblom), a Wachusett Student singing the National Anthem, several Holden children throwing out the first pitch and saying "play ball" for the start of the game, and most importantly nearly \$3,000 worth of ticket sales were donated to a local non-profit (Holden Baseball) by the WooSox.



REGIONAL LOCKUP

The Town of Holden signed on to the regional lockup program run through Sheriff Lew Evangelidis' office. This will allow the town to deliver those who are being held who may have medical issues or pose a danger to themselves and others to the Worcester House of Correction for lockup, rather than being held in the town's Public Safety Building where we have to monitor and tend to their needs in a very costly and potentially dangerous situation for our staff. There is no charge for the service and the Worcester House of Correction is already suited and staffed to better tend to the needs of this type of inmate than Holden.

DAWSON RECREATION COMPLEX

In November of 2022, after passing a Special Town Meeting overwhelmingly, the debt exclusion for funding the new fields and renovations for the Dawson Recreation Complex was approved by ballot vote. The Town Manager appointed a construction committee shortly thereafter and the committee has been hard at work since to formulate final design plans with designers and engineers from Weston and Sampson. Permitting is proving to be more difficult than previously expected due mostly to DCR timelines, but the project is moving forward rapidly and is expected to start construction in early 2024. The project is expected to add two new rectangular playing fields with walking trail, adequate parking off Industrial Drive, with a connecting boardwalk and walking trail to the existing Dawson Recreation facilities. The project also expects to renovate the existing baseball field for a synthetic turf conversion and a total renovation to the existing playground. Improved handicapped access will also be addressed along with additional amenities where the budget ultimately allows.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

HOLIDAYS IN HOLDEN

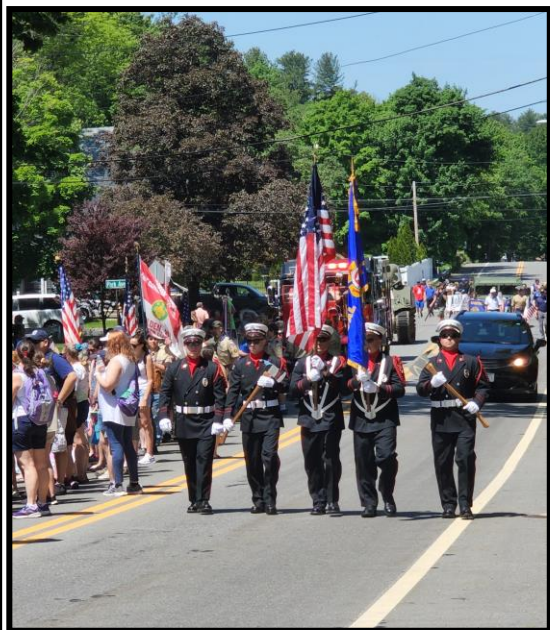
2022 marked the return of our Holidays in Holden/Winter Festival event. The weekend was a smashing success for the Economic Development Committee, Holden Recreation, local businesses and the Town as a whole. Our restaurants, bars and local shops were mobbed all weekend as holiday strollers partook in the "Jingle and Mingle" on Friday night, the Food Truck Festival and festivities all day Saturday, and winding down with the drive-through at the high school and subsequent Santa visit on Sunday. The entertainment on Saturday included singers and bands on the bandstand to the ice sculptor in front of Town Hall. It was truly a team effort that included Recreation Director Angela Greene, Economic Development Committee Chairman Kathy Merck and all of the EDC members, along with volunteers like Sabrina Heiniloma from Wachu Makin who created all of the beautiful advertising graphics that were used leading up to the event.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MEMORIAL DAY

The 2022 Annual Memorial Day was held on a picturesque day in Holden. The Veteran's Advisory Board would like to thank the residents and businesses of Holden for their continued support of this great event.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT



Memorial Day - Photos by Elizabeth Consiglio

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES CELEBRATED

JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

5 YEARS

Maureen Burke	Christopher Galkowski
Luis Garcia	Jonathan Harris
Denise Monteiro	Abbi Parkinson
Bradford Sherblom	Joseph Sposato
Maria Szemiot	Glenda Williamson

10 YEARS

Suzanne Lucia	Sean McKiernan
David Russo	Jon Scott
John Woodsmall	

15 YEARS

Maureen Buffone	Leah Francese-Wood
Joshua Poznanski	Lori Rose

20 YEARS

Richard Grensavitch	Andrew Miller
Justin Pedersen	Jonathan Santimore
Rosemary Scully	Timothy Sherblom
Todd Ventres	

25 YEARS

Ray Sherbourne

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Stephanie King – Assistant Town Manager/Department Head

Doug Nelson – Systems Administration

Steve Gross – Network Administration

Helen Aronowitz – IT Business Analyst

The Information Technology (IT) Department's primary responsibility is the planning, management and improvement of the technology infrastructure, telecommunications, and business applications that support Holden's day-to-day operation. The Holden IT Department is constantly striving to meet or exceed the information and technical needs of the Town. The IT Department provides the technical support, advice, and assistance to our town departments to more cost-effectively and efficiently deliver services to Holden residents through computerization and business process automation.

As part of its mission, the Holden IT Department interacts closely with every department to assess current and future requirements, research the latest advances in technology, analyze, and provide information and advice to Holden's leaders and decision-makers regarding technical infrastructure investments, assist with vendor negotiations, and monitor contract performance.

User support remains a major function of the Holden IT Department. IT staff install and ensure proper functioning of software, administer servers, install and repair hardware, and manage sophisticated networking and communications systems on a regular daily basis. The IT staff oversees the efficient running, maintenance and updates to the Town IT infrastructure and telephone support including IT capabilities for real estate taxes, assessors database, police dispatch and permitting, for proficient and user friendly services.

The IT Department made the decision to buy out their Simplivity system (a software defined system that combines storage, computing, networking and management). The three year lease ended and the decision was made that it was much more cost effective to purchase the system outright than to re-lease. Additionally, other infrastructure changes will allow the town systems to continue to operate efficiently without current outlay of cash.

Moving forward, the town's financial system, Munis, is going to be hosted in the cloud. By making this move, the town will no longer pay for upgrades, license fees, servers, sequel servers, certificates, disaster recovery, or support. We have been moving toward this solution as it more effectively addresses the town's technological needs.

The Town has been participating in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services & Security cybersecurity awareness training program. Cybersecurity awareness training allows employees to be able to identify threats. The goal of cybersecurity awareness training is to change behaviors and reduce risk within the organization. We are hopefully that with this training, staff can recognize, react, and report suspicious activity.

Holden IT has continued to maintain a strong online presence. Not only do we offer online bill paying, and permitting applications, but we also have very useful forms as well as a great GIS (Geographical Information System), which integrates with many other components of our town administration. Our Facebook page continues to grow in popularity.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TOWN OF HOLDEN WEBSITES

- ❖ Town of Holden: <https://www.holdenma.gov/>
- ❖ Holden Police Department: <https://www.holdenma.gov/police-department>
- ❖ Holden Fire Department: <https://www.holdenma.gov/fire-department>
- ❖ Gale Free Library: <https://www.galefreelibrary.org/>
- ❖ Holden Light Department: <https://www.holdenma.gov/light-department>
- ❖ Holden Recreation Department: <https://holdenma.gov/recreation>
- ❖ Online Registration for Recreation: <https://holdenma.myrec.com/>
- ❖ Holden Community Television: <https://www.holdentv.com/>

TOWN OF HOLDEN SOCIAL MEDIA

- ❖ Town of Holden Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Holden-183702448366233>
- ❖ Holden DPW Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HoldenDPW>
- ❖ Holden DPW Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HoldenDPW>
- ❖ Holden Police Department Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HoldenMAPD/>
- ❖ Holden Fire Department Twitter: <https://twitter.com/holdenmassfire>
- ❖ Holden Fire Department Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HoldenMassFire/>
- ❖ Gale Free Library Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/galefreelibrary/>

We have made strides in improving efficiencies in workflow and internal processes in many departments. Holden IT continues to monitor system security, and ensure we are protecting our computing resources. At HMLD, Holden IT replaced and consolidated its networking switches and wiring, making for a simpler and more robust setup, plus reducing failure points, while upgrading to more modern equipment. This also allowed HMLD to move some of its network to a more appropriate location and improved capacity for future needs.

We continue to look for more modern and more efficient ways of operating, and will strive to provide the best quality computing experience for our staff, which will in turn allow them to provide the best service to our residents and businesses.

EDUCATION

LETTER FROM WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

March 2023

Dear Residents of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling

It is an honor to write on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District to thank our member towns for their continued support. This year has included several significant transitions in leadership as we welcomed four new principals to the district: Joy Wilde at Dawson Elementary, Carla Squier at Mayo Elementary, Kristina Pelczarski at Naquag Elementary, and Ace Thompson at the Thomas Prince School. In addition to myself, three district administrators: Jon Krol, Director of Social and Emotional Learning & Equity, Pamela Rutkowski, Director of Human Resources, and Michelle Grisé, Director of Business and Finance also joined our central office team. I am thankful for the energy, professionalism, and perspectives that all of these individuals have demonstrated in their new roles.

The focus of our work this year has been to provide an honest and transparent accounting of where we stand in terms of our student experience as well as the management of the district as a whole. In both of these areas we still have much to accomplish. We are striving to make each of our schools a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment where all of our students belong and get the support they need. We will also continue to prioritize school safety - not only training our staff and students, but advocating for improvements to our facilities. Nearly all of our capital improvement requests this year focus on addressing the security infrastructure of our buildings by the addition of upgraded entry systems and cameras.

In terms of district management, there is a dire need to update and correct many of our operational systems. This includes our budgeting process, which has not provided a true accounting of what it costs to run the district or properly advocated for student needs. We have placed a particular emphasis this year on following School Committee guidance on appropriate class size. This is essential as we try to support all our students placed at increased risk due to the disrupted learning of the past three years.

I would like to thank our families, teachers, staff, and community members for their continued support and dedication to the children of the Wachusett Regional School District. I know we all share the goal of providing our students with a quality education that will prepare them to pursue their dreams.

James M. Reilly, MSW, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

EDUCATION

Letter *from* Leadership

The 2021-2022 school year was my eighth year serving as School Principal at Monty Tech, and I am honored that it concluded with my appointment to a new role – that of Superintendent-Director. Having been part of this remarkable educational community, developing a deep understanding of initiatives – both large and small – that are an integral part of our educational programs, and working with and learning from our outstanding faculty, staff and administrative team, has allowed for a successful transition into this new position. I could not be more grateful for the encouraging and kind remarks I continue to receive from students and parents, faculty and staff, and the regional business community, whose support means so much to the Monty Tech family.

The 2021-2022 school year was my eighth year serving as School Principal at Monty Tech, and I am honored that it concluded with my appointment to a new role – that of Superintendent-Director. Having been part of this remarkable educational community, developing a deep understanding of initiatives – both large and small – that are an integral part of our educational programs, and working with and learning from our outstanding faculty, staff and administrative team, has allowed for a successful transition into this new position. I could not be more grateful for the encouraging and kind remarks I continue to receive from students and parents, faculty and staff, and the regional business community, whose support means so much to the Monty Tech family.

With the effects of the pandemic still being felt, students and staff were encouraged to maintain health and safety standards learned in the previous year, but to also return to a new “normal.” Daily in-person instruction, off-campus construction projects, and Skills competitions returned. While the pandemic certainly brought questions, fears, and insecurities to the surface for many, it also provided instructional staff with opportunities to collaborate and develop new skills in infusing technology into daily lessons. Monty Tech instructors worked tirelessly, with a new appreciation for instructional technology, to embed some of “what worked” into their daily, class instruction. Collecting assignments via Google Classrooms, conducting quick learning assessments via apps like Quizizz or Kahoot, and assigning group learning projects using Google Slides and Docs, teachers resulted in a heightened level of student engagement.

The regional workforce also seemed to find its footing in FY22, welcoming approximately 200 students into local shops and businesses to work and learn alongside industry professionals, through the school’s long-standing co-op program. Another remarkable example of school-to-business collaboration was demonstrated when eight businesses submitted letters of support to Commonwealth Corporation on the school’s behalf. Attesting to their belief in Monty Tech training programs, agreeing to interview program completers, and even highlighting Monty Tech graduates currently on staff, these letters were instrumental in the acquisition of a \$600,000 grant award, which would provide no-cost training for young adults throughout our area. Monty Tech understands the value of a vocation, and through the Career Technical Initiative, we have been able to extend training opportunities beyond the school day, helping a wide range of adults train for those high wage, high skills jobs that remained unfilled when the pandemic subsided.

EDUCATION

As the value of a vocational education becomes more evident, we have seen applications to attend Monty Tech on the rise. While we understand that frustration that can come with not being admitted to a school of your choosing, we are challenging ourselves to work with local school leaders to establish practices and programs that will ensure as many students as possible are admitted from each sending community, and that all students who are interested in the school have an opportunity to visit and tour our campus. Undoubtedly, a highlight of the 2021-2022 school year was seeing all eighth grade students from Fitchburg Public Schools join our tour day event. I look forward to further discussions and collaborations with area school leaders, so that we may establish innovative training programs that will serve those who want a vocational experience, but have not yet attended Monty Tech.

I remain humbled and honored to lead such an outstanding organization, and thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas R. Browne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas R. Browne, Superintendent-Director

ACCOUNTING

Lori Rose, CGA – Town Accountant
Melanie Nason – Assistant Town Accountant
Heather VanHazinga – Assistant Accountant

DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

The General Laws of the Commonwealth provide for the appointment of a Town Accountant. The Town Accountant must possess training and experience to maintain the municipality's financial records. The records verify that the Town's monies are being collected and disbursed in accordance with the municipality's financial policies, including its operating budget.

All accounts are maintained under the Uniform Municipal Accounting Standards (UMAS) as promulgated by the state of Massachusetts and the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue. The method of accounting used for regulatory purposes is a modified accrual fund basis that brings the town's accounting methods more closely into a GAAP basis of accounting that is used nationally. In order to provide financial statements for issuance of bonds we must also prepare information in compliance with financial reporting requirements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The Accounting Department is responsible for recording all financial activity in the general ledger; processing the accounts payable warrant on a weekly basis and the payroll warrant on a bi-weekly basis; processing, reviewing, and liquidating purchase orders as necessary and in accordance with town policies and state procurement laws; maintaining all contract and bid files; and recording and updating fixed asset records.

The general ledger is where transactions for all Town funds are recorded. This includes general government funds, revolving funds, grant and gift accounts, water/sewer and solid waste enterprises, trust funds, and the light department activity.

The purchase order program encumbers funds by subtracting them from the budget and reducing the available balance. Approximately 730 purchase orders were issued during fiscal 2022. Before a purchase order is issued we must confirm that proper procurement procedures have been followed and documented, that applicable contracts will be in place, and funds are available. Invoices are matched to purchase orders when paid. There were approximately 16,000 invoices processed in fiscal 2022, resulting in approximately 5,300 vendor checks being issued.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The Town received the final distribution of ARPA funds. \$1,010,208.55 was received directly from the federal government and \$2,884,899.28 was received from the Worcester County ARPA allocation for a total of \$5,767,999 of ARPA funds received to date. As of June 30, 2022 the Town has spent a total of \$181,599 on COVID prevention measures, hazardous materials inspection, and main street drainage. There are encumbrances totaling \$546,056 for additional work on the above mentioned projects, for the purchase of an ambulance and for improvements to the Dawson basketball courts. The Recreation Field project was approved by voters at the November 17, 2022 Special Town Meeting and approximately \$3,300,000 of ARPA funds will be used towards

ACCOUNTING

the engineering, design, and construction of this project. All funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Annual reports are required in April each year. It is anticipated that the remaining funds will be used mainly for capital needs under the revenue loss provision and for water/sewer infrastructure.

The accounting office continues to manage the ongoing grants from the State 911 Department for the development of the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center. The town has been awarded a total of \$6,060,201 for the project for fiscal years 2012 through 2022. In July of 2022 the town was awarded a fiscal 2023 development grant in the amount of \$774,041 for transitional costs and infrastructure and equipment to finalize the addition of the Town of Paxton to the dispatch center. All expenditures related to this project must be submitted to the State 911 Department for approval and reimbursement and we have handled all of the reporting requirements to ensure that the Town receives all funding in a timely manner.

For the seventh consecutive year the town has participated in the Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) program offered by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This is a voluntary program that allows ambulance providers to claim federal reimbursement for allowable certified public expenditures based on annual costs. Given the financial data required for this report, a majority of the report is completed by the town accountant. As a result of this process the town received \$90,100 in fiscal 2022 for the fiscal 2021 CPE report.

In preparing the budget for fiscal year 2022 the policy on the use of the Town's free cash and also the capital planning and improvement plan were adhered to. The free cash policy recommends that a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of free cash will be used to fund operating expenses. This policy allows the Town to continue building reserves, provides for unanticipated decreases in revenue in following years, and keeps an amount of free cash available for appropriation by a Special Town Meeting if a need arises. The capital improvement plan forecasts and plans for the capital acquisitions requested by all departments. The Town's capital needs are analyzed and prioritized and the goal is to devote approximately 4% of our budget as an investment in our assets and infrastructure.

The Town's balance sheet and free cash calculations for fiscal year 2022 were submitted in November and were certified by the Department of Revenue. The annual state report of revenues and expenditures also known as "Schedule A" was completed and submitted before the November 30th deadline. The fiscal year 2022 annual audit has been completed by the independent audit firm of R.E. Brown CPA.

Audited financial statements are available at any time by visiting the accountant's web page at holdenma.gov or by contacting the accounting office. The financial statements included in this report are unaudited for the year ending June 30, 2022.

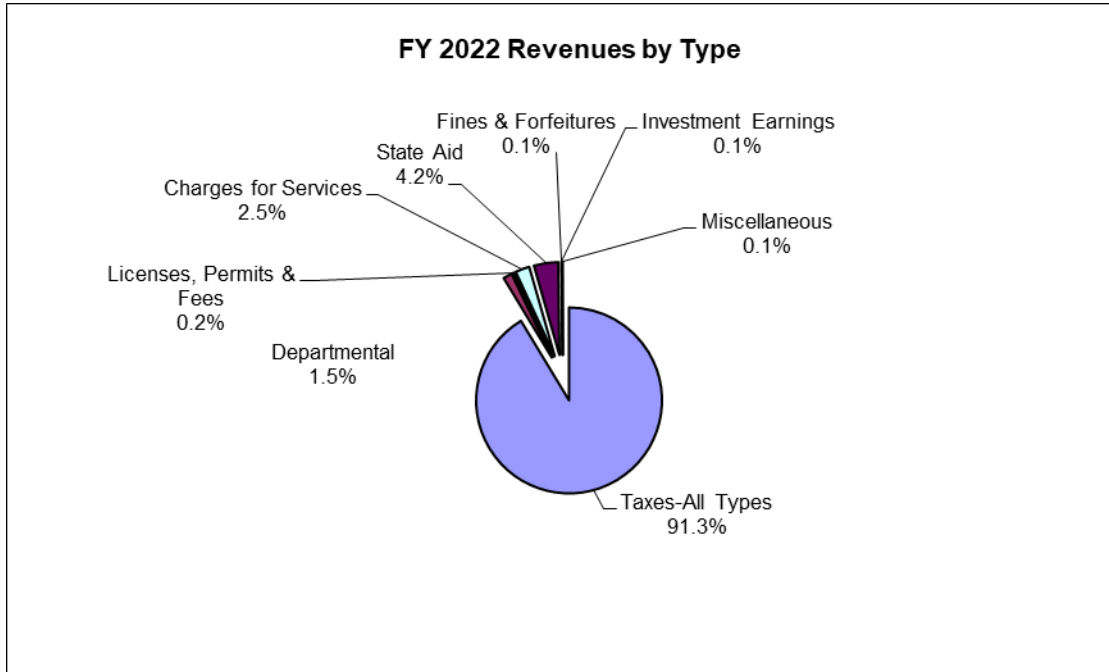
**TOWN OF HOLDEN
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2022**

ASSETS	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TRUST & AGENCY	MUNICIPAL LIGHT	WATER SEWER	SOLID WASTE	LONG-TERM OBLIGATION	JUNE 30, 2022
Cash & short-term investments	12,030,365.15	4,600,682.49	6,714,536.42	371,003.18	5,985,318.82	1,841,473.94	880,395.04		32,423,775.04
Investments				15,005,238.18	4,010,280.48				19,015,518.66
Receivables (Net of allowances for uncollectables)									
Personal property	55,386.54								55,386.54
Real estate	674,446.14								674,446.14
Excise	327,813.90								327,813.90
Tax liens	898,230.56				934.95	4,768.48	1,420.20		905,354.19
Special assessments						1,413,418.87			1,413,418.87
Ambulance	1,327,174.09				99,678.39				1,327,174.09
Other	131,793.18				686,494.65	459,620.74	79,341.58		231,471.57
User charges									1,225,456.97
Due from Commonwealth of MA	224.96								224.96
Due from Wachuset Regional School Dist		1,159.39							1,159.39
Due from Federal Government		104,708.35							104,708.35
Due from Payroll W/H				61,963.02					61,963.02
Amts to be provided for retirement of long-term debt								52,466,016.59	52,466,016.59
TOTAL ASSETS	15,445,434.52	4,706,550.23	6,714,536.42	15,438,204.38	10,782,707.29	3,719,282.03	961,156.82	52,466,016.59	110,233,888.28
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES									
LIABILITIES									
Accounts and warrants payable	474,774.06	197,650.82	371,599.87	73,555.16	32,123.07	377,651.96	44,977.86		1,572,332.80
BANS payable			3,098,142.00						3,098,142.00
Other liabilities	21,370.95			290,564.81	279,366.01	13,883.51			605,185.28
Deferred revenue	1,730,852.99				787,107.99	1,877,808.09	80,761.78		4,476,530.85
Reserve for Abateements and exemptions	1,683,991.42								1,683,991.42
General obligation bonds payable								52,466,016.59	52,466,016.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,910,989.42	197,650.82	3,469,741.87	364,119.97	1,098,597.07	2,269,343.56	125,739.64	52,466,016.59	63,902,198.94
FUND BALANCES									
Reserved For									
Encumbrances	235,166.41	17,637.45				112,906.25			365,710.11
Continued Warrant Articles/Appropriations	1,661,036.93				4,490,572.93	12,647.33			6,164,257.19
Expenditure	2,796,662.00					1,071,000.00	205,000.00		4,072,662.00
Depreciation fund					4,010,280.48				4,010,280.48
Premiums		95,899.11							95,899.11
Reduction of future debt excluded debt	4,169.22								4,169.22
Unreserved									
Unreserved	6,837,410.54	4,395,362.85	3,244,794.55	15,074,084.41	1,183,256.81	253,384.89	630,417.18		31,618,711.23
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	11,534,445.10	4,508,899.41	3,244,794.55	15,074,084.41	9,684,110.22	1,449,938.47	835,417.18	0.00	46,331,689.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	15,445,434.52	4,706,550.23	6,714,536.42	15,438,204.38	10,782,707.29	3,719,282.03	961,156.82	52,466,016.59	110,233,888.28

ACCOUNTING BUDGET RECAP

REVENUE SOURCE	FY22 ESTIMATE	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 ESTIMATE	FY23 as of 12/31/22
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	\$2,375,000	\$3,159,663	\$2,600,000	\$371,945
PENALTIES/INTEREST	135,000	197,172	165,000	80,860
LIEU OF TAX	1,070,705	1,014,853	982,225	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	852,000	1,369,096	910,000	692,323
FEES	462,589	445,369	523,500	198,465
RENTALS	117,930	120,106	116,930	58,904
LIBRARY	1,000	3,314	1,000	1,713
CEMETERY	9,000	9,195	8,000	4,075
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL	49,950	61,705	46,225	33,528
LICENSES/PERMITS	104,500	132,258	110,500	65,579
FINES	25,300	34,777	25,300	18,061
INVESTMENT INCOME	30,000	27,506	20,000	88,686
MISC RECURRING	210,375	210,375	213,704	106,852
MISC NON-RECURRING	60,000	184,581	50,000	8,200
SEPTIC	44,344	47,037	40,000	23,264
TOTAL LOCAL	5,547,693	7,017,007	1,812,384	1,752,455
CHERRY SHEET	2,306,389	2,353,141	2,438,007	1,195,961
SBAB	-	-	-	-
TAXES	46,316,744	45,822,738	48,002,545	23,687,271
TAXES PRIOR YEARS	-	180,976	-	139,139
TAX LIENS	-	23,874	-	22,544
FORECLOSURE	-	-	-	-
CONVEYANCE TAX	-	-	-	14,090
LIGHT DEPT	154,272	154,272	159,293	79,647
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	48,777,405	48,535,001	50,599,845	25,138,652
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	54,325,098	55,552,008	56,412,229	26,891,107

ACCOUNTING BUDGET RECAP



ACCOUNTING BUDGET RECAP

	ORIGINAL FY2022 BUDGET	TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	FINAL FY2022 BUDGET	FY2022 EXPENDED
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Salary & Wages	\$ 1,900,246	-	-	\$ 1,900,246	\$ 1,710,644
Expenditure	5,274,212	-	-	5,274,212	4,915,087
Capital Outlay	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Total	7,194,458	-	-	7,194,458	6,625,731
DEBT					
Municipal	1,801,773	-	-	1,801,773	1,801,772
School	1,478,227	-	-	1,478,227	1,478,197
Total	3,280,000	-	-	3,280,000	3,279,969
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Salary & Wages	5,392,147	-	21,426	5,370,721	4,807,065
Expenditure	793,850	21,426	-	815,276	805,521
Capital Outlay	225,000	-	-	225,000	173,720
Capital Outlay	6,410,997	21,426	21,426	6,410,997	5,786,306
Total	5,392,147	-	21,426	5,370,721	4,807,065
PUBLIC WORKS					
Salary & Wages	1,640,250	-	53,328	1,586,922	1,534,427
Expenditure	1,179,560	-	58,459	1,121,101	1,133,317
Capital Outlay	480,000	-	-	480,000	198,095
Snow Removal	520,000	111,787	-	631,787	631,787
Total	3,819,810	111,787	111,787	3,819,810	3,497,626
HUMAN SERVICES					
Salary & Wages	288,500	-	-	288,500	258,822
Expenditure	96,250	-	-	96,250	45,306
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total	384,750	-	-	384,750	304,128
EDUCATION					
WRSD	30,754,976	-	-	30,754,976	30,754,977
WRSD Trans	2,214,426	-	-	2,214,426	2,214,425
VOC	1,022,372	-	-	1,022,372	990,828
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total	33,991,774	-	-	33,991,774	33,960,230
CULTURE					
Salary & Wages	678,970	-	-	678,970	661,373
Expenditure	255,090	-	-	255,090	255,195
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total	934,060	-	-	934,060	916,568
TOTAL GENERAL FUND					
	\$56,015,849	\$ 133,213	\$ 133,213	\$ 56,015,849	\$ 54,370,558

ACCOUNTING BUDGET RECAP

	ORIGINAL FY2022 BUDGET	TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	FINAL FY2022 BUDGET	FY2022 EXPENDED
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND					
Salary & Wages	719,172	-	-	719,172	693,840
Expenditure	7,718,405	-	-	7,718,405	7,488,666
Capital Outlay	1,900,000	-	-	1,900,000	727,715
TOTAL					
WATER/SEWER	10,337,577	-	-	10,337,577	8,910,221
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND					
Salary & Wages	53,139	-	-	53,139	45,998
Expenditure	1,357,134	-	-	1,357,134	1,322,219
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,410,273	-	-	1,410,273	1,368,217
TOTAL BUDGET	\$67,763,699	\$133,213	\$133,213	\$67,763,699	\$64,648,996

ACCOUNTING

FIVE YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

	ACTUAL FY 2018	ACTUAL FY 2019	ACTUAL FY 2020	ACTUAL FY 2021	ACTUAL FY 2022
GENERAL GOV'T					
Salary & Wages	\$1,444,104	\$1,584,279	\$1,590,772	1,681,600	1,710,644
Expense	3,920,095	4,119,678	4,102,427	4,634,776	4,915,087
Capital Outlay	2,916	29,540	3,840	6,128	-
Total	5,367,115	5,733,497	5,697,039	6,322,504	6,625,731
DEBT RETIREMENT					
Municipal	1,380,592	1,270,517	1,260,067	1,332,376	1,801,772
School	4,221,764	4,175,799	4,138,697	1,515,646	1,478,197
Total	5,602,356	5,446,316	5,398,764	2,848,022	3,279,969
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Salary & Wages	4,088,468	4,136,018	4,341,776	4,629,151	4,807,065
Expense	696,723	672,233	674,343	681,078	805,521
Capital Outlay	68,121	124,423	135,949	382,686	173,720
Total	4,853,312	4,932,674	5,152,068	5,692,915	5,786,306
PUBLIC WORKS					
Salary & Wages	1,398,328	1,467,223	1,507,339	1,532,249	1,534,427
Expense	871,306	894,115	1,071,471	895,708	1,133,317
Capital Outlay	280,301	409,037	411,320	288,521	198,095
Snow Removal	560,616	548,013	421,276	498,264	631,787
Total	3,110,551	3,318,388	3,411,406	3,214,742	3,497,626
HUMAN SERVICES					
Salary & Wages	248,338	257,825	257,365	244,456	258,822
Expense	78,976	80,434	81,584	58,130	45,306
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	30,000	-
Total	327,314	338,259	338,949	332,586	304,128
EDUCATION					
WRSD Assessment	24,304,111	26,083,029	27,621,290	29,286,195	30,754,977
WRSD					
Transportation	1,884,700	2,004,018	2,204,520	2,219,546	2,214,425
Vocational Ed	789,852	833,376	893,959	947,939	990,828
Capital	-	-	-	64,505	-
Total	26,978,663	28,920,423	30,719,769	32,518,185	33,960,230
CULTURE					
Salary & Wages	599,112	611,843	543,335	630,548	661,373
Expense	258,460	263,037	248,276	258,085	255,195
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total	857,572	874,880	791,611	888,633	916,568
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$47,096,883	\$49,564,437	\$51,509,606	\$51,817,587	\$54,370,558

ACCOUNTING

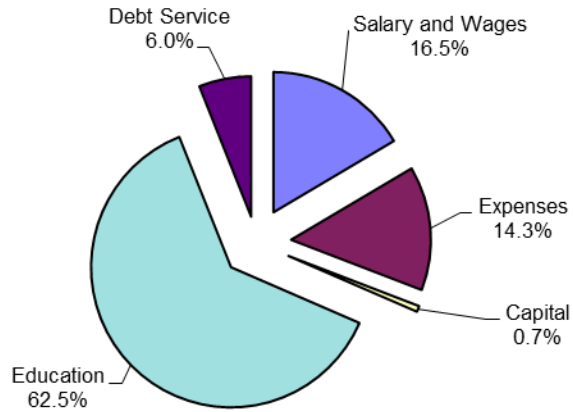
FIVE YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

	ACTUAL FY 2018	ACTUAL FY 2019	ACTUAL FY 2020	ACTUAL FY 2021	ACTUAL FY 2022
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND (FUNDED FROM RATES AND NOT TAXES)					
Salary and Wages	616,754	609,596	665,370	687,380	693,840
Expense	6,082,474	6,901,219	7,009,554	7,043,289	7,488,666
Capital Outlay	501,586	241,420	1,066,233	1,673,229	727,715
TOTAL					
WATER/SEWER	7,752,235	8,741,157	6,679,749	9,403,898	8,910,221
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND (FUNDED FROM FEES AND NOT TAXES)					
Salary and Wages	44,158	43,760	47,776	45,277	45,998
Expense	1,174,055	1,197,604	1,240,950	1,265,640	1,322,219
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,218,213	1,241,364	1,288,726	1,310,917	1,368,217
TOTAL BUDGET	55,515,910	\$58,558,036	\$61,539,489	\$62,532,402	\$64,648,996

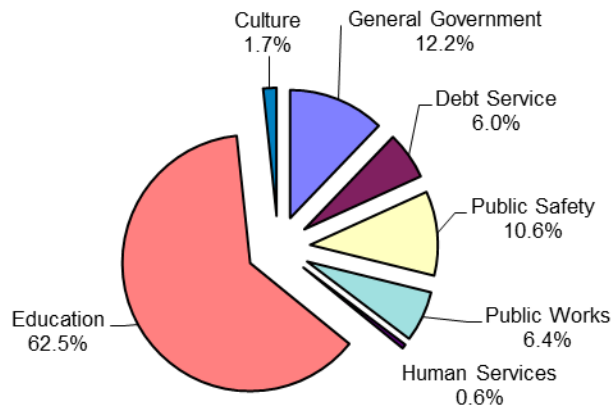
ACCOUNTING

FIVE YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

FY 2022 Operational Expenditures by Type



FY 2022 Operational Expenditures by Department



Project	Date of of Issue	Interest Rate	Total Issued	Balance as of 6/30/21	Principal Paid in FY22	Interest Paid in FY22	Balance as of 6/30/22	Date of Maturity
General Fund Debt-Conventional Loans								
Mountview Middle School	6/16/2016	2.397%	15,000,000	11,250,000.00	750,000.00	395,625.00	10,500,000.00	6/15/2036
Mountview Middle School	6/15/2017	2.570%	4,015,000	3,200,000.00	200,000.00	122,000.00	3,000,000.00	6/15/2037
Public Safety Building #1 *refunded Oct 2022	5/15/2008	0.533%	8,000,000	2,974,300.00	304,300.00	209,681.65	2,670,000.00	10/15/2027
Public Safety Building #2* refunded Oct 2022	4/15/2010	0.741%	5,000,000	2,230,400.00	155,400.00	159,058.11	2,075,000.00	10/15/2029
Ambulance	6/14/2018	2.452%	288,000	110,000.00	50,000.00	4,500.00	60,000.00	6/1/2023
DPW Equip Loader w/Plow	6/14/2018	2.451%	259,500	100,000.00	55,000.00	4,950.00	45,000.00	6/1/2023
DPW Building - 18 Industrial Drive	10/22/2020	1.633%	9,000,000	8,046,300.00	411,300.00	408,055.54	7,635,000.00	10/15/2040
DPW Building - 18 Industrial Drive	10/28/2021	1.816%	9,195,586	8,283,800.00	-	-	8,283,800.00	10/15/2041
General Fund Debt - Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Loans								
Sewer Connections II	10/26/2006	0.000%	707,184	154,946.28	39,527.11	-	115,419.17	8/1/2024
Bond Anticipation Notes								
School Building Improvements (BAN)	10/29/2021	1.250%	848,142	848,142.00	-	10,572.33	848,142.00	10/28/2022 *
Water/Sewer Debt - Conventional Loans								
Water System Upgrades (Refunded)	12/18/2014	1.030%	2,600,000	240,000.00	120,000.00	4,800.00	120,000.00	6/30/2023
Jefferson Water System Upgrades (Refunded)	12/18/2014	1.030%	1,000,000	90,000.00	45,000.00	1,800.00	45,000.00	6/30/2023
Water Mains - Capital 2015	12/18/2014	1.756%	600,000	240,000.00	60,000.00	6,000.00	180,000.00	6/30/2025
Water Tank Painting - Capital 2015	12/18/2014	1.756%	550,000	220,000.00	55,000.00	5,500.00	165,000.00	6/30/2025
Water Mains - Capital 2016	6/16/2016	2.397%	1,600,000	1,200,000.00	80,000.00	42,200.00	1,120,000.00	6/15/2036
Sewer Pump Station -Capital 2016	6/16/2016	1.982%	270,000	170,000.00	20,000.00	6,662.52	150,000.00	6/15/2031
Water Mains Capital 2017	6/15/2017	2.548%	850,000	670,000.00	45,000.00	25,900.00	625,000.00	6/15/2037
Princeton St. Sewer Pump	6/15/2017	2.517%	280,000	220,000.00	15,000.00	8,550.00	205,000.00	6/15/2037
Infiltration-Inflow Removal	6/15/2017	2.514%	365,000	285,000.00	20,000.00	11,150.00	265,000.00	6/15/2037
Lincoln Ave Sewer	6/15/2017	1.834%	350,000	210,000.00	35,000.00	10,500.00	175,000.00	6/15/2027
Water Mains - Capital 2018	6/14/2018	3.144%	803,000	680,000.00	40,000.00	26,200.00	640,000.00	6/1/2038
Sycamore Dr. Sewer Pump - Cap 2018	6/14/2018	3.104%	271,500	227,000.00	15,000.00	8,915.00	212,000.00	6/1/2038
Heritage Lane Sewer Pump - Cap 2018	6/14/2018	3.139%	818,000	683,000.00	45,000.00	26,385.00	638,000.00	6/1/2038
Water Mains Capital 2020	10/15/2020	1.620%	626,300	626,300.00	36,300.00	32,135.54	590,000.00	10/15/2040
SCADA	10/15/2020	0.331%	371,000	371,000.00	126,000.00	23,953.61	245,000.00	10/15/2023
Jefferson Water Tank	10/15/2020	0.704%	1,000,000	831,700.00	96,700.00	58,342.82	735,000.00	10/15/2029
SCADA Planning & Design	10/15/2020	0.703%	375,000	375,000.00	45,000.00	26,270.83	330,000.00	10/15/2029
Sewer Pump Station -Capital 2021	10/28/2021	1.792%	500,000	-	-	-	307,350.00	10/15/2041
Infiltration-Inflow Removal-Capital 2021	10/28/2021	1.783%	950,000	-	-	-	854,200.00	10/15/2041
Water Mains Capital 2021	10/28/2021	1.811%	1,000,000	-	-	-	904,150.00	10/15/2041
Jefferson Water Tank	10/28/2021	0.727%	80,000	-	-	-	69,550.00	10/15/2029
Water Meter Replacement	10/28/2021	0.822%	1,000,000	-	-	-	850,600.00	10/15/2029
Water Meter Replacement	10/28/2021	0.816%	500,000	-	-	-	425,350.00	10/15/2029
Water/Sewer Debt - Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Loans								
Loan DW-00-16 (Water System)	11/15/2002	-	831,535	103,813.66	51,906.83	(14,235.21)	51,906.83	7/15/2022
Loan DW-01-15 (Water System)	11/15/2002	-	773,153	100,000.00	50,000.00	(14,112.61)	50,000.00	7/15/2022
Loan CW-00-43A (Sewer Const)	11/15/2002	-	4,038,215	515,000.00	255,000.00	65,015.22	260,000.00	7/15/2022
Loan DW-01-15A (Water System)	11/1/2003	-	3,444,613	482,987.47	157,336.83	(43,998.80)	325,650.64	7/15/2023
Loan DW-04-06 (Water System)	11/16/2005	2.000%	923,349	267,627.00	51,406.00	5,201.37	216,221.00	7/15/2023
Loan DW-09-14 (Water Improvements)*	3/1/2010	2.000%	1,743,881	999,566.78	91,239.77	20,509.87	908,327.01	7/15/2031
Loan DW-13-12	2/11/2016	2.000%	525,000	414,099.00	23,647.00	8,903.12	390,452.00	1/15/2036
*Principal has been reduced by \$666,419 by ARRA principal reduction and reallocation of funds by MCWT								
Bond Anticipation Notes-Water/Sewer								
SCADA Planning & Design	10/29/2021	1.250%	450,000	450,000.00	-	5,609.38	450,000.00	10/28/2022 *
Water Mains Capital 2022	10/29/2021	1.250%	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000.00	10/28/2022
Sewer Pump Station Capital 2022	10/29/2021	1.250%	500,000	-	-	-	500,000.00	10/28/2022
Water Meter Replacement	10/29/2021	1.250%	300,000	-	-	-	300,000.00	10/28/2022
Municipal Light Department Debt - MMWEC								
Chaffins Substtaion	6/24/2021	1.930%	6,500,000	6,500,000.00	471,960.06	132,809.86	6,028,039.94	3/22/2031
Totals								
Total Short-Term Debt (General Government, Water/Sewer & Light)				1,298,142.00	-	16,181.71	3,098,142.00	
Total Long-Term Debt (General Government, Water/Sewer & Light)				53,071,840.19	4,017,023.60	1,789,228.44	52,466,016.59	
Total Debt as of 6/30/2022				<u>54,369,982.19</u>	<u>4,017,023.60</u>	<u>1,805,410.15</u>	<u>55,564,158.59</u>	

* Bond Anticipation Notes were originally issued 10/14/2020 and were renewed for a second year on 10/29/21

ACCOUNTING

NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

		Beginning Balance 7/1/21	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expenses/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance 6/30/22
Federal Grants					
517	H1N1 Fed Grant	1.50	-	-	1.50
	BOH Local Preparedness				
510	grant	4,379.76	-	-	4,379.76
437	State ARPA Earmark ECC	0.00	100,000.00		100,000.00
19	ARPA	1,010,208.55	1,875,017.94	181,598.86	2,703,627.63
21	CARES/COVID (21)	-48,449.09	82,317.57	1,139.88	32,728.60
	Municipal Road Safety				
218	Prog '21	485.85	899.76	386.40	999.21
	Fire Urban Search &				
260	Rescue	0.00	10,060.58	7,442.08	2,618.50
268	Fire SAFER Fed Grant	1,257.41	100,364.59	101,621.60	0.40
283	FEMA AFG-SCBA	-60,182.50	64,588.93	4,406.43	0.00
	Early Education/REC				
552	ARPA	0.00	210,454.74	83,560.66	126,894.08
Total Federal Grants		907,701.48	2,443,704.11	380,155.91	2,971,249.68

State Grants

131	IT Community Compact Grant	157,035.00	-	157,035.00	-
	Emergency Paid Sick				
132	Leave	-	34,419.16	-	34,419.16
161	Extended Polling Hrs	6,223.52	-	-	6,223.52
172	Storm reg match	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00
248	Police Training '22	0.00	32,817.26	32,817.26	0.00
221	Police Training '21	-9,777.34	9,942.66	-	165.32
250	Incentive Grant '22	-	435,126.89	435,126.89	-
231	Incentive Grant '21	-	116,563.50	116,563.50	-
	911 Development Grant				
246	'20	-	215,584.10	215,584.10	-
	911 Development Grant				
254	'21	16,000.00	154,650.00	170,650.00	-
	911 Development Grant				
252	'22	-	207,480.10	207,480.10	-
260	Law trust	26,962.09	-	-	26,962.09
264	Fire Hazardous Materials	2,575.44	30,201.79	19,921.57	12,855.66
270	SAFE 22	0.41	5,175.00	1,263.53	3,911.88
271	SR SAFE 22	-	3,055.00	-	3,055.00
276	SR SAFE 20	79.65	-	-	79.65
275	SAFE 20	109.47	-	109.47	-
277	SAFE 21	3,761.00	-	3,761.00	-
278	SR SAFE 21	2,680.00	-	2,679.98	0.02

ACCOUNTING

NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

		Beginning Balance 7/1/21	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expenses/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance 6/30/22	
281	CMRPC Training	1,328.59	-	-	1,328.59	
295	FF Assistance Grant	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	-	
289	FF Equipment Grant	0.00	1,068.69	1,068.69	-	
13	Highway Chapter 90	-78,292.53	91,380.56	1,119,240.92	-1,106,152.89	
433	DCR Tree Grant	10,971.50	-	-	10,971.50	*
	Travel & Tourism					
436	Earmark for ECC	-	32,500.00	26,010.00	6,490.00	
695	Cultural Council	17,510.96	10,701.25	12,960.00	15,252.21	
540	Elder Formula	26,967.41	43,008.00	49,007.57	20,967.84	
610	Library Lig/Mig	347,916.71	42,993.04	17,190.31	373,719.44	
520	Septic Title V	52.73	-	-	52.73	
25	Septic Title V	770.83	-	-	770.83	
750	Solid Waste Recycling	47,860.00	9,900.00	2,402.40	55,357.60	

Total State Grants	595,735.44	1,495,567.00	2,609,872.29	-518,569.85
*Pending state reimbursement				

Gifts/Donations

120	Selectmen	737.86	140.00	-	877.86
121	CATV	610.82	-	-	610.82
122	Memorial Day Parade	7,409.70	7,075.00	10,358.56	4,126.14
123	Bandstand	16,845.41	6,513.75	3,223.46	20,135.70
124	Winter Festival	842.80	-	-	842.80
126	275th Celebration	5,067.68	-	-	5,067.68
127	Community Garden	126.51	50.00	91.45	85.06
128	Town Gifts/Revenue	500.00	-	-	500.00
129	Garden Club Civic Grant	81.93	-	49.81	32.12
	Bond Premiums for				
145	Issuance Costs	-	93,852.45	93,852.45	-
170	Compost bins	1,393.00	-	-	1,393.00
	Grth Mtg Road				
171	Improvement	7,024.56	-	-	7,024.56
176	White Oaks	7,195.03	-	-	7,195.03
177	White Oaks-Holbrook	4,671.92	-	-	4,671.92
255	Public Safety Antenna	2,001.00	-	-	2,001.00
256	Dare Donations	8,982.44	-	-	8,982.44
257	Police Donations	6,520.87	5,056.77	2,035.99	9,541.65
	K-9 Stanton Foundation				
258	Grant	-	32,000.00	13,008.64	18,991.36
259	K-9 Training Stanton	-	15,400.00	12,788.34	2,611.66

ACCOUNTING

NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

		Beginning Balance 7/1/21	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expenses/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance 6/30/22
286	Fire Code Violations	1,427.82	-	-	1,427.82
290	SAFE donations	3,702.75	-	-	3,702.75
293	CERT donations	322.50	-	-	322.50
295	Fire Donations	485.00	4,606.77	-	5,091.77
297	Ambulance Purch Ambulance Fund	325.00	150.00	-	475.00
299	Donation	4,663.01	-	-	4,663.01
400	Sidewalk Donations	38,950.65	-	-	38,950.65
431	Mayo	801.17	-	-	801.17
515	Board of Health AirCard Seniors Harvard Pilgram	657.45	-	-	657.45
542	Private Grant Senior Center	159.71	-	12.99	146.72
545	Gifts/Discretionary	35,933.46	19,673.50	23,151.64	32,455.32
546	Help at Home	68,680.74	17,701.00	30,127.23	56,254.51
550	Skate Park Donations	640.00	-	-	640.00
551	Recreation Donations	0.00	27,218.24	25,874.50	1,343.74
620	Library gifts	42,837.03	6,273.75	35,799.26	13,311.52
Total Gifts/Donations		269,597.82	235,711.23	250,374.32	254,934.73
Receipts Reserved for Appropriation					
450	Cemetery Lots	145,831.14	3,601.33	-	149,432.47
175	Conservation/wetlands Bond Premiums Reserved for capital projects	121,332.43 65,643.69	- 30,255.42	-	121,332.43 95,899.11
22	Transportation Network	4,436.80	596.70	-	5,033.50
441	Comp	-	3,318.00	2,370.00	948.00
543	Veteran's Cola Supp	-	3,318.00	2,370.00	948.00
23	PEG Access - HCTV	776,339.44	267,570.90	349,822.74	694,087.60
Total Receipts Reserved for Appropriation		1,113,583.50	305,342.35	352,192.74	1,066,733.11
Revolving Funds					
24	Before/After School (53D)	7,414.15	366,463.91	373,878.06	-
27	Inspection Revolving (53E1/2)	261,528.05	249,227.85	245,566.61	265,189.29
28	Recreation (53E 1/2)	535,038.26	472,733.82	598,113.71	409,658.37
26	Insurance Recovery Revolving	22,917.81	98,934.19	82,915.50	38,936.50
Total Revolving Funds		1,024,766.65	1,187,359.77	1,300,473.88	775,398.00

ACCOUNTING

NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

		Beginning Balance 7/1/21	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expenses/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance 6/30/22	
Capital Projects						
37	18 Industrial Drive	710.56	-	-	710.56	
40	DPW Building	5,061,222.58	9,195,586.00	11,688,349.36	2,568,459.22	
38	Town Capital	50,953.47	-	709,244.72	-658,291.25	**
39	Water/Sewer Projects	-1,468,831.85	3,970,000.00	1,167,252.13	1,333,916.02	
Total Capital Projects		3,644,054.76	13,165,586.00	13,564,846.21	3,244,794.55	
**Offset by Temporary Bond Anticipation Note						
Agency Funds						
89157	Bid Deposits	3,730.00	-	-	3,730.00	
	Zoning Escrow					
89180	Winterberry	1,243.52	0.69	-	1,244.21	
89181	Zoning Escrow Fisher	17,342.77	3.52	-	17,346.29	
89182	Mt. Pleasant Escrow	6,842.77	-	-	6,842.77	
89183	Reservoir St Project	5,067.27	-	-	5,067.27	
89186	Winter Hill cash in lieu Wachusett Woods	3,312.78	1.83	-	3,314.61	
89188	Escrow	60.07	0.02	-	60.09	
89189	Hill Woods Cash in Lieu	8,559.92	4.70	-	8,564.62	
89190	Oak Hill Culvert Escrow	2,551.42	1.41	-	2,552.83	
89192	Horizon alarm	4,409.92	2.42	-	4,412.34	
89194	Greenwood Estates	839.89	50,004.51	40,506.74	10,337.66	
89195	Fisher Rd Sewer Ext Energy Const Ser Cash	18,903.15	10.41	-	18,913.56	
89196	for Bond	5.26	-	-	5.26	
89197	Pine Tree Estates	740.23	0.41	-	740.64	
89198	Torrey Lane Subdivision	0.00	30,831.32	-	30,831.32	
89265	Police detail	12,078.00	376,881.70	369,649.02	19,310.68	
89289	Fire detail	24,739.32	2,478.67	2,136.00	25,081.99	
89269	State Licenses	38,826.75	22,481.25	22,650.00	38,658.00	
	Tailings/Unclaimed Items	21,370.95	-	-	21,370.95	
Total Agency Funds		170,623.99	482,702.86	434,941.76	218,385.09	
Trust Funds						
	group ins	68,846.23	-	-	68,846.23	
	Lloyd Starbard	18,768.55	-441.90	-	18,326.65	***
	Welcome Aldrich	21,966.85	-517.22	-	21,449.63	***
	Worc Commandery	6,078.61	-143.11	-	5,935.50	***
	Hendricks House	10,004.82	-235.52	-	9,769.30	***
	Newell (Hospital)	25,046.55	-589.75	-	24,456.80	***
	Bradley Gilman	48,262.64	-1,136.33	-	47,126.31	***
	Chapel	12,950.71	-304.93	-	12,645.78	***
	Frank E. Cook	10,819.00	-254.73	-	10,564.27	***
	Special Care (Cemetery)	20,660.71	-486.45	-	20,174.26	***
	Hamil	17,162.51	-404.07	-	16,758.44	***
	Perpetual Care	710,299.79	-9,569.92	5,000.00	695,729.87	***
	Anderson	15,572.91	-366.65	-	15,206.26	***
	Elsie Horsefall	10,122.24	-238.30	-	9,883.94	***
	Charles Emerson Smith	13,884.27	-326.90	-	13,557.37	***

ACCOUNTING

NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

	Beginning Balance 7/1/21	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expenses/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance 6/30/22	
Wm & Marion Sargent	3,731.02	-87.82	-	3,643.20	***
ST&AW Hobbs	11,879.67	-279.71	-	11,599.96	***
Holden High School	18,283.37	-430.48	-	17,852.89	***
Ellen Bascom	3,566.54	-83.98	-	3,482.56	***
Nathan Howe	22,358.76	-526.42	-	21,832.34	***
E Phelps Johnson	20,202.44	-475.67	-	19,726.77	***
BS Newell	15,327.69	-360.87	-	14,966.82	***
Francis Jennings	2,892.02	-68.10	-	2,823.92	***
E. Newell reference	14,781.50	1,311.27	-	16,092.77	
Wachusett	303,203.02	-6,978.26	25,000.00	271,224.76	***
Jeremiah Kaplan	17,478.77	-411.52	-	17,067.25	***
Carrol Bailey TF	1,390,967.95	-84,368.92	-	1,306,599.03	***
Pension	178,246.10	-4,196.74	-	174,049.36	***
Conservation	25,374.06	-597.43	-	24,776.63	***
General Stabilization	4,786,557.18	36,338.36	-	4,822,895.54	
Water/Sewer Stabilization	200,066.35	-4,710.51	-	195,355.84	***
DPW Depreciation	680,400.93	58,498.41	-	738,899.34	
Fire Stabilization	313,299.29	91,981.13	-	405,280.42	
Regional Dispatch Stabilization	68,592.37	-1,615.12	-	66,977.25	***
Open space Stabilization	169,839.65	45,680.00	-	215,519.65	
Other Post Employment Funds (OPEB)	6,090,083.35	-357,095.85	-	5,732,987.50	***
Light Depreciation	4,020,394.72	789,885.76	800,000.00	4,010,280.48	
Total Trust Funds	19,367,973.14	546,391.75	830,000.00	19,084,364.89	

ACCOUNTING

FREE CASH

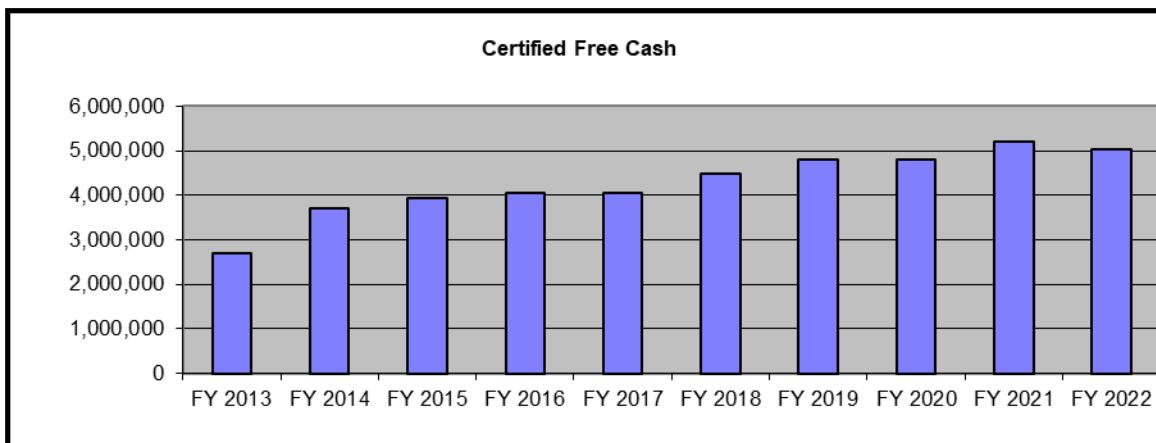
The General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance is the amount by which cash and receivables exceed current liabilities and commitments.

The available amount is calculated and certified each year by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue based upon the balance sheet submitted by the Town.

The amount available is what becomes known as "Free Cash". Free Cash can then be appropriated either for a specific expenditure or to reduce the tax rate.

	Certified	Used
Fiscal 2023		2,745,548
Fiscal 2022	5,039,338	2,371,237
Fiscal 2021	5,191,096	2,251,408
Fiscal 2020	4,789,668	2,232,449
Fiscal 2019	4,490,109	2,073,464
Fiscal 2018	4,584,490	2,270,884
Fiscal 2017	4,046,928	2,948,473
Fiscal 2016	4,048,834	2,158,787
Fiscal 2015	3,934,728	786,512
Fiscal 2014	3,714,663	1,013,324
Fiscal 2013	2,711,441	908,344
Fiscal 2012	2,295,926	704,693
Fiscal 2011	1,453,351	81,644
Fiscal 2010	1,196,281	

Approximately 50% of the Free Cash certified as of 6/30/21 was left unappropriated and is now part of the 6/30/22 Free Cash. For the fiscal 2023 budget, free cash was appropriated into the following stabilization funds: General Stabilization fund \$150,000; and Other Post-Employment Benefits trust fund \$250,000. A total of \$1,167,444 was appropriated for various Capital Projects for the Town, \$674,104 was appropriated for the payment of debt service and \$504,000 was appropriated towards other town charges.



ACCOUNTING BUDGET ESTIMATES

	FY2023 BUDGET	EXPENDED AS OF 12/31/2022	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
GENERAL OVERNMENT			
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,932,778	\$ 898,415	\$ 1,932,778
Expense	5,529,194	3,875,615	5,500,000
Capital Outlay	17,000	16,556	16,556
Total	7,478,972	4,790,586	7,449,334
DEBT			
Municipal	2,086,165	1,607,740	2,086,165
School	1,432,812	247,749	1,432,812
Total	3,518,977	1,855,489	3,518,977
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Salary and Wages	5,717,824	2,257,656	5,717,824
Expense	826,250	372,201	825,000
Capital Outlay	237,000	29,080	237,000
Total	6,781,074	2,658,937	6,779,824
PUBLIC WORKS			
Salary and Wages	1,655,271	763,897	1,655,271
Expense	1,381,300	410,669	1,300,000
Capital Outlay	981,500	77,433	687,450
Snow Removal	520,000	97,289	600,000
Total	4,538,071	1,349,288	4,242,721
HUMAN SERVICES			
Salary and Wages	298,898	141,068	298,898
Expense	98,850	17,732	98,850
Capital Outlay	7,000	-	7,000
Total	404,748	158,800	404,748
EDUCATION			
WRSD	33,806,436	16,903,218	33,806,436
Montachusett	1,219,380	609,690	1,219,380
Out of District			
vocational School	59,700	29,086	59,700
Total	35,085,516	17,541,994	35,085,516
CULTURE			
Salary and Wages	708,647	335,481	708,647
Expense	257,983	148,205	257,983
Capital Outlay	20,000	4,813	20,000
Total	986,630	488,499	986,630
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	58,793,988	28,843,593	58,467,750

ACCOUNTING BUDGET ESTIMATES

	FY2023 BUDGET	EXPENDED AS OF 12/31/2022	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND			
Salary and Wages	730,115	334,592	730,115
Expenditure	8,882,646	4,850,405	8,882,646
Capital Outlay	2,898,500	15,540	1,700,000
TOTAL WATER/SEWER	12,511,261	5,200,537	11,312,761
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND			
Salary and Wages	52,829	6,790	52,829
Expenditure	1,549,772	674,335	1,360,000
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,602,601	681,125	1,412,829
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 72,907,850	\$ 34,725,255	\$ 71,193,340



Quinapoxet Reservoir – Photo by Suzanne Beer

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE



Laurie A. Gaudet - Treasurer/Collector (center left)
Teresa Brown – Assistant Treasurer (center right)
Jennifer J. Keegan, Assistant Collector (right)
Monica Patacciola – Payroll Coordinator (left)

The office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector has many responsibilities. The Tax Collector's duties include the collection, reconciliation and reporting of all real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes as well as electric and water/sewer rates and trash fees. These receivables are often paid through the mail, both directly to the office or to a lockbox. Holden residents can also remit their payments in person at the Collector's office as well as online.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR'S OFFICE STAFFING

To best serve the office needs Teresa Brown returned to the Tax Collector's Office as Assistant Treasurer to assist in cash management and deposits. Jennifer Keegan was promoted to Assistant Collector and Monica Patacciola joined our office as new Payroll Coordinator. With our new Payroll Coordinator in place we hope to be able to utilizing Munis to the full potential. We hope to be able to reduce the duplication of efforts through this process.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Included in the Tax Collector's duties is the preparation of legal documents relative to the real estate parcels located in the Town of Holden. A Municipal Lien Certificate (MLC) is prepared when a property is being conveyed or refinanced to certify the tax status of the parcel. A Certificate for Dissolving Betterments is created to release a paid Betterment Lien from a property. Liens were placed on properties eligible for the Town of Holden Sewer project in conjunction with the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the MDC) which provided sewer access to over 2,500 parcels. Interest free connection loans were also made available to homeowners who opted to connect to the Town's sewer system. Once these liens have been paid in full, either through the real estate tax bills or in advance, a Certificate for Dissolving Betterments is prepared and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds to remove the lien.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The Town Treasurer is the custodian of all Town of Holden funds which must be deposited and invested in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws. The Town of Holden bank accounts are balanced daily. Cash and receipts are reconciled with the Town Accountant's office each month.

The office creates and maintains the payroll records for all Town of Holden employees. The biweekly Town payrolls are prepared and employee deductions such as taxes, insurance, retirement, union dues, child support and tax deferred compensation are reconciled and distributed to the correct agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the administration of employee benefits which has become more complicated with the onset of state and federal health care reform and more offerings such as flexible spending accounts.

The Treasurer/Collector's office also processes the weekly Accounts Payable warrants which must be balanced with the Accounting office. The Treasurer must fund the warrant, wire funds for certain expenditures and mail the remaining checks each Friday.

BORROWING

The Treasurer is responsible for borrowing funds for various town projects authorized at the annual Town Meeting. This process involves working with our financial advisors and providing the appropriate documentation before funds can be borrowed. Once the borrowing is complete, the Treasurer must continue to file an "Annual Disclosure" to update the financial status of the Town of Holden. It is also incumbent upon the Treasurer to monitor the spending of borrowed funds so that they are spent within the mandated timeframe to avoid IRS penalties.

The Town of Holden maintained a very favorable bond rating of AA+ with Standard & Poor's and Moodys raised the Town's bond rating to AA2. These positive ratings will benefit the Town's position when borrowing funds for various projects.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

The Holden Municipal Light Department has been continuing to expand the online utility payments for Holden Residents. The Department of Planning & Development and the DPW issue permits online. The Town Clerk and the Recreation Department continue to receive payments online. In addition, Holden residents may make donations online through the Town's website. Donations may be made to the Help at Home fund which provides assistance to Holden residents in need. Online donations can also be made for the Memorial Day Parade, the Light-a-Light bandstand fund, and Holden Community Garden. With so many payment options available, the Treasurer/Collector's office is constantly developing more efficient methods of the reconciliation and reporting of these funds on a daily basis.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The Cash Reconciliation for June 30, 2022 is as follows:

Cash Balance as of May 31, 2022	\$37,037,348.35
Treasurer's Receipt	\$3,857,892.48
Bailey Trust Add'l Investment	
Investment Interest	\$(41,058.15)
Total Available	\$40,854,182.68
Treasurer Warrants minus void checks	\$8,354,654.44
Transfer to Light Depreciation	\$73,794.00
Transfer to Perpetual Care	\$1,064.67
Transfer to Town of Holden OPEB Fund	\$893.87
	\$8,430,406.98
Cash Balance as of June 30, 2022 (See Attached)	\$32,423,775.70

	CASH VALUE 5/31/2022	ADD'S	EARNINGS	CASH VALUE 6/30/2022	UNREALIZED GAIN/LOSS	MARKET VALUE (ESTIMATED)
Invested Trust Funds 6/30/2022	\$12,054,360.11	\$74,858.67	\$35,206.94	\$12,164,425.72	\$(188,494.25)	\$11,975,931.47
Bailey Trust Fund 6/30/2022	\$1,390,958.57	\$ -	\$197.49	\$1,391,156.06	\$(84,557.03)	\$1,306,599.03
OPEB Trust Funds 6/30/2022	\$6,028,237.61	\$893.87	\$5,653.72	\$6,034,785.20	\$(301,797.70)	\$5,732,987.50
Total Investments 6/30/2022	\$19,473,556.29	\$75,752.54	\$41,058.15	\$19,590,366.98	\$(574,848.98)	\$19,015,518.00
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS 6/30/2022				\$52,014,142.68	\$(574,848.98)	\$51,439,293.70

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TRUST FUNDS 2022

FUND NAME	BEGINNING BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	INTEREST	ENDING BALANCE	ENDING MARKET VALUE
CEMETERY FUNDS						
Perpetual Care	710,299.79	2,198.01	0.00	12,149.44	724,647.24	695,729.21
Chapel Fund	12,950.71	0.00	0.00	221.71	13,172.42	12,645.78
F. E. Cook	10,819.00	0.00	0.00	185.23	11,004.23	10,564.27
Special Care	20,660.71	0.00	0.00	353.71	21,014.42	20,174.26
Hamil Fund	17,162.51	0.00	0.00	293.84	17,456.35	16,758.44
Anderson Fund	15,572.91	0.00	0.00	266.62	15,839.53	15,206.26
MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS						
Pension Funds	178,246.10	0.00	0.00	3,051.59	181,297.69	174,049.36
Starbard Fund	18,768.55	0.00	0.00	321.32	19,089.87	18,326.65
W. Aldrich	21,966.85	0.00	0.00	376.05	22,342.90	21,449.63
Worcester	6,078.61	0.00	0.00	104.07	6,182.68	5,935.50
Commandery						
Conservation	25,374.06	0.00	0.00	434.40	25,808.46	24,776.63
Commission						
Hendricks House	10,004.82	0.00	0.00	171.32	10,176.14	9,769.30
Wachusett Fund	303,203.02	0.00	25,000.00	4,960.45	283,163.47	271,224.76
Newell Hospital Fund	25,046.55	0.00	0.00	428.76	25,475.31	24,456.80
B. Gilman Recreation Trust	48,262.64	0.00	0.00	826.26	49,088.90	47,126.31
LIBRARY FUNDS						
E. Horsfall	10,122.24	0.00	0.00	173.32	10,295.56	9,883.94
C. E. Smith	13,884.27	0.00	0.00	237.70	14,121.97	13,557.37
W. Sargent	3,731.02	0.00	0.00	63.90	3,794.92	3,643.20
S. T. Hobbs	11,879.67	0.00	0.00	203.38	12,083.05	11,599.96
Holden High	18,283.37	0.00	0.00	313.00	18,596.37	17,852.89
E. S. Bascom	3,566.54	0.00	0.00	61.05	3,627.59	3,482.56
Nathan Howe	22,358.76	0.00	0.00	382.79	22,741.55	21,832.34
E. P. Johnson	20,202.44	0.00	0.00	345.86	20,548.30	19,726.77
B. S. Newell	15,327.69	0.00	0.00	262.43	15,590.12	14,966.82
Frances Jennings	2,892.02	0.00	0.00	49.51	2,941.53	2,823.92
Eliz Newell Ref Fund	14,781.50	1,670.00	0.00	268.47	16,719.97	16,092.77
C. & J. Kaplan Trust	17,478.77	0.00	0.00	299.25	17,778.02	17,067.25

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TRUST FUNDS 2022

FUND NAME	BEGINNING BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	INTEREST	ENDING BALANCE	ENDING MARKET VALUE
STABILIZATION/DEPRECIATION FUNDS						
General						
Stabilization Fund	4,786,557.18	150,000.00	0.00	83,328.10	5,019,885.28	4,822,895.54
Light						
Depreciation	4,020,394.72	885,528.00	800,000.00	69,176.66	4,175,099.38	4,010,280.48
DPW						
Depreciation	680,400.93	75,000.00	0.00	12,339.60	767,740.53	738,899.34
Fire Stabilization						
Fund	313,299.29	100,000.00	0.00	6,285.19	419,584.48	405,280.42
Water/Sewer						
Stabiliz Fund	200,066.35	0.00	0.00	3,425.13	203,491.48	195,355.84
Open Space						
Preservation/Stab						
Fund	169,839.65	50,000.00	0.00	3,368.39	223,208.04	215,519.65
Regional						
Dispatch						
Stabilization Fund	68,592.37	0.00	0.00	1,174.15	69,766.52	66,977.25

TAX TITLE RECONCILIATION FY 21

Outstanding-July 1, 2020	766,305.59	
Added to Tax Title during FY 2021	189,493.26	<u>955,798.85</u>
Payments to Treasurer	61,096.55	
Foreclosures	4,583.30	
Outstanding-June 30, 2021	890,119.00	<u>955,798.85</u>

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



Rosemary Scully, MAA-Principal Assessor (bottom right)
James R. Dillon, MAA-Assessor
Kaitlin Morin, Senior Assessor Clerk (bottom center)
Erica Crea, Assessor Clerk/Data Collector (bottom left)
Michael Simmons – Data Collector (top right)
Kathy Smith – Data Collector (top left)
Dawson – (center front)

WELCOME TO THE HOLDEN ASSESSORS' OFFICE

The Assessors' Office values all real estate (residential, commercial and industrial) and personal property in the Town of Holden for the purpose of "ad valorem" taxation. This process involves discovering, listing, and valuing over 8,000 residential properties, which includes single-family homes, multi-family homes, condominiums, and apartment buildings, exempt properties and vacant land. There are also 150 commercial and industrial properties and nearly 400 personal property accounts, which must be reviewed on an annual basis. The office also receives more than 20,000 motor vehicle excise records from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, which must be processed and committed to the Tax Collector.

In addition, the function of the Assessing Office includes updating tax map information in regards to property sales and subdivisions; tracking the yearly additions in value triggered by the building permit process and computation of "new growth;" monitoring and recording all changes in property ownership through information received from the Registry of Deeds; inspecting in a timely manner all properties sold in Holden; receiving and processing all real estate and personal property abatement applications within statutory timelines; representing the Town of Holden at the Appellate Tax Board or negotiating settlements with taxpayers before hearings; assisting realtors, appraisers, and taxpayers seeking

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

information on Holden's 8,400-plus Real and Personal property accounts; and supplying the Board of Selectmen with all the information required in the setting of the tax rate at the annual classification hearing. This office provides quality service to all customers in the performance of the above described duties.

ACCESSING ASSESSMENT DATA ONLINE

The public can access the Online Assessor Database from www.holdenma.gov. The Town has contracted with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. to host this site.

The Town reviews all property values on an annual basis. Values are updated based upon market conditions of sales of comparable properties in Holden. The current database values were finalized and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue approved the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 on November 21, 2022. The Fiscal Year 2023 tax rate for all classes of property is \$14.99 per thousand dollars of valuation.



HOLDEN GIS ONLINE

The Town of Holden has a Geographic Information System (GIS) website that provides both GIS and Assessors' data for properties located within Holden. The public can access the GIS website at www.holdenma.gov.

The Assessors' Office is available to offer the best in customer service and information. The staff will attempt to answer a wide variety of questions and issues ranging from abatements to exemptions, from property identification to motor vehicle excise tax issues. Visit www.holdenma.gov or call (508) 210-5515 for further assistance.

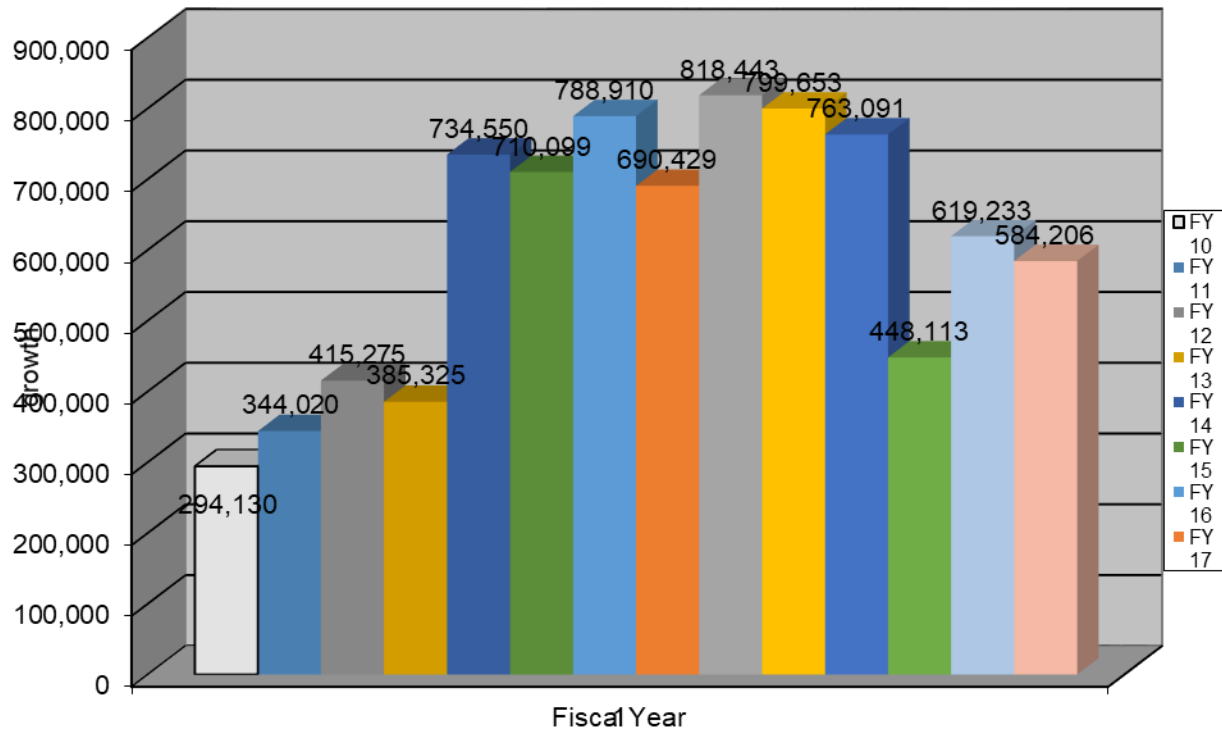
NEW CONSTRUCTION

New construction, additions and alterations between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 increased the total value of the Town by nearly 30 million dollars. New business personal property added more than 5 million in new value. Holden has clearly been growing both residentially and commercially.



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

New Growth



ASSESSMENT DATA VALUATION AND TAX LEVY

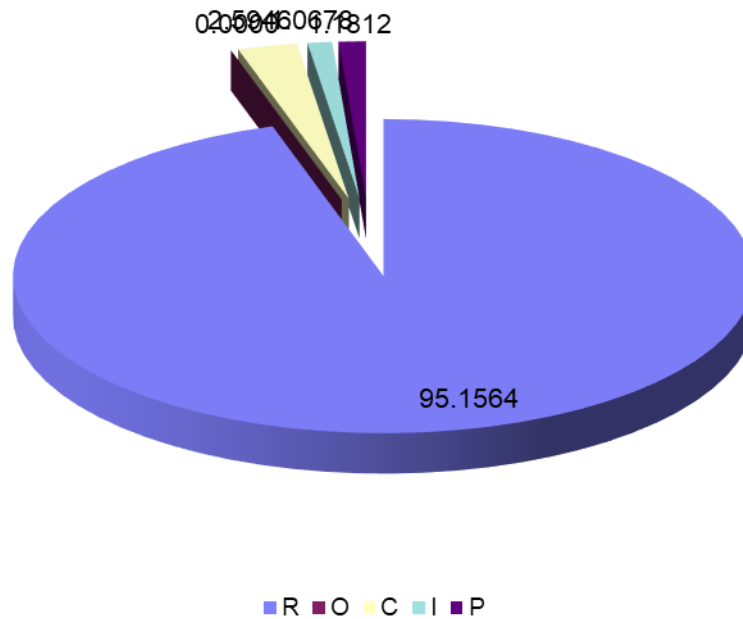
FISCAL YEAR	ASSESSED VALUATION	TAX LEVY	TAX RATE*
2023	\$3,202,304,590	\$48,002,546	\$14.99
2022	\$2,796,904,820	\$2,796,904,820	\$16.56
2021	\$2,577,956,850	\$44,856,449	\$17.40
2020	\$2,510,692,390	\$42,681,771	\$17.00
2019	\$2,361,218,620	\$41,203,265	\$17.45
2018	\$2,208,757,900	\$38,896,227	\$17.61
2017	\$2,091,650,920	\$36,792,139	\$17.59
2016	\$1,976,440,200	\$34,093,593	\$17.25
2015	\$1,883,118,500	\$34,122,107	\$18.12
2014	\$1,856,042,600	\$32,944,756	\$17.75
2013	\$1,810,899,100	\$31,455,318	\$17.37
2012	\$1,838,082,600	\$30,383,505	\$16.53

*Tax Rate expressed in per thousand dollars of assessed valuation

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

PERCENT OF TAX LEVY BY CLASS				
CLASS	TYPE	FY23	FY22	FY21
I	RESIDENTIAL	95.16	94.7	94.5
II	OPEN SPACE	0.00	0.00	0.00
III	COMMERCIAL	2.59	2.76	2.9
IV	INDUSTRIAL	1.08	1.05	1.0
V	PERSONAL PROPERTY	1.18	1.50	1.6

TAX LEVY SHARE FY 2023



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPERTY USE ASSESSMENTS				
CLASS CODE	CLASS TYPE	PARCEL COUNT	TOTAL ASSD. VALUE	% OF TOTAL REAL ESTATE
101	Single Family	6056	2,679,661,600	83.68
102	Condominiums	740	198,707,300	6.21
104	Two Family	71	27,674,900	0.86
105	Three Family	18	7,827,000	0.24
103, 109	Misc. Multi Dwell	25	12,711,800	0.4
111-125	4 or More Units	22	55,628,400	1.74
012-043	Mixed Use	32	35,038,400	1.09
130-132	Vacant Land	842	37,382,400	1.17
300-393	Commercial	137	74,737,200	2.33
400-452	Industrial	24	33,767,600	1.05
CH 61	Forest Land	22	77,110	0.002
CH 61A	Agricultural Land	70	638,600	0.02
CH 61B	Recreational Land	19	626,120	0.02
500	Personal Property	368	37,826,160	1.18
TOTALS		8,446	\$3,202,304,590	

PROPOSITION 2 ½ LEVY LIMIT EXPLAINED

"Proposition 2 ½" refers to an initiative statute adopted by the voters of the Commonwealth in November 1980. Its purpose was to stabilize municipal property taxes. It limits the amount by which the taxing capacity of the Town is allowed to increase each year. The allowed growth is 2.5 percent of the prior year's *levy limit*.

Added to the levy limit computation is the levy increase attributable to "*new growth*." This represents additions to the base of taxable property, typically as a result of new construction, renovation and minor alterations, or change of use. Permitting the levy limit to be adjusted by "*new growth*" recognizes the fact that development creates pressures on Town services over the long term. New Growth for FY22 was \$619,233, and increase of nearly \$200,000 from the prior year when COVID-19 resulted in delays with construction.

The assessment date for each tax year is the previous January 1. The Town has accepted the provisions of Section 40 of Chapter 653 of the Acts of 1989 regarding assessment date changes for new growth. This legislation allows communities to tax in the current fiscal year all new construction built between January 1 and June 30 of that year. The purpose of this local-option legislation is to reduce the delay that can occur between construction and taxation.

Total growth of the **levy limit** is therefore attributable to two factors, allowed growth, which is fixed (2.5% per year), and new growth that is variable and subject to economic conditions.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

EXEMPTIONS

Clause	Persons who are eligible	Qualifications	Amount
17D	Surviving Spouse, Minor, Aged Person	Total estate, both real and personal cannot exceed \$40,000 exclusive of any mortgage interest in any real estate included in total estate and exclusive of total value of domicile up to a 3-unit building of which one unit is owner occupied.	\$175
18	Hardship	Any person who is so aged, infirm and poverty stricken that he or she is unable to contribute to public charges (Subject to M.G.L. Section 5A).	No specific amount
22	Disabled Veteran	10% or greater disability, Purple Heart, or widowers of qualified veterans (as long as they remain unmarried) or parents of service men killed in action.	\$400
22A	Disabled Veterans	Loss of one foot, hand or sight of one eye, or Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross.	\$750
22B	Disabled Veterans	Loss of hands, feet or eyes.	\$1,250
22C	Disabled Veterans	Specially-adapted housing.	\$1,500
22D	Surviving Spouse	Veteran died from injuries due to being in a combat zone.	Full
22E	Disabled Veterans	100% disability of incapable of working. Must file certification indicating inability to work.	\$1,000
PARAPLEGIC	Disabled Veterans spouse of paraplegics	Paralysis of lower half of body on both sides, surviving.	Full
37A	Blind	Legal Resident of Mass. Proof of blindness from the Mass. Commission of the Blind must be furnished each year.	\$500
41C	Elderly	Applicant must be 65 prior to July 1, be a resident of Mass. For 10 years and owned real estate in Mass. For 5 years. If single, income cannot exceed \$20,000; or if married, combined income of applicant and spouse cannot exceed \$30,000. Minimum social security deductions, if any, are allowed. If single, the whole estate cannot exceed \$40,000; or if married combined whole estate of applicant and spouse cannot exceed \$55,000. Value of domicile up to a 3-unit dwelling, of which one unit is owner occupied, is also included	\$1,000

DEFERRALS

Statutory Reference

Ch. 59, Sec. 5, Cl. 41A

Qualifications

An agreement allowing certain persons 65 years of age or over to postpone payment of all or a portion of real estate tax up to 50% of full, fair cash value of their property and no transfer of such property may occur unless the taxes, which would otherwise have been assessed, have been paid, with interest at the rate of 8% per annum. This interest is not compounded. Applicant's gross income from all sources in preceding calendar year cannot exceed \$40,000.

Ch. 80, Sec. 13B Sewer Betterment Deferral and deferral and Recovery Agreement

Agreement allowing persons eligible under Clause 41A to enter into deferral and recovery agreement, thereby deferring payment. Applications should be filed within six months after notice of assessment. This is recorded as a lien on the property and no transfer as such property may occur unless the betterment assessment, which would otherwise have been collected has been paid, with interest at the rate prevailing on that contract.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT



MISSION STATEMENT

The Holden Fire Department is a Public Safety Department dedicated to the protection of lives and property from the perils of fire and other natural and manmade disasters. This is accomplished through mitigation, prevention, public education and training. The Department is committed to provide quality service to all who are in need.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I respectfully submit the 2022 Annual Report of the Holden Fire Department. I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of the department's operational and administrative personnel during the past year. As in 2021, we continue to deal with supply chain shortages that still create an issue for the department in procuring the necessary equipment needed for day to day operations. With long lead times on items such as vehicle parts, hose, personal protective equipment and medical supplies, the department has had to find alternative methods to fill these gaps.

The following are some of our accomplishments for 2022:

- ❖ During 2022, the department was awarded two Firefighter Safety and Equipment Grants with a cumulative amount of \$38,104 to outfit our apparatus with radio headsets. This equipment is used for noise protection for our firefighters and also enhances radio communications both in the vehicles and on a fire scene. As part of this grant, the department also received replacements for some aging ice rescue equipment and added a master stream appliance to the Engine housed at our Station 2 on Adams Rd.
- ❖ Through our capital replacement program, the department received a new state of the art ventilator for use on the department ambulances. The ventilator by Hamilton Medical provides our department Paramedics with the ability to treat those patients who are ventilator dependent or have severe respiratory issues. LT Ethan Naiman and FF/Paramedic Corey Plasse worked extensively to review multiple ventilators to find the right fit for our department needs.

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- ❖ The department received our 2022 SAFE and Senior SAFE funding in the amount of \$8,230. This funding allows fire safety education to be taught within our schools and to Holden Seniors. This program is under the direction of FF Joseph Sposato.
- ❖ The department received a 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant from the FEMA to update the town's hazard mitigation plan. This is a plan that is administered under our Emergency Management program that helps us to identify the hazards and vulnerabilities the town faces in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, earthquake or toxic release. The total award for the grant was \$33,000.

In 2022, the department had some changes to our command and line staff. In April, Captain Robert Connor left the department to become the Fire Chief in Littleton, MA. We wish Chief Connor the best of luck and continued success in his new position. Firefighter Paramedic Ethan Naiman, who has been the departments EMS Coordinator since 2017 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He has been assigned as the Shift Officer for Group 2. In July, FF/Paramedic David Russo, a member of the department for 11 years and former EMS Coordinator retired from the fire service to pursue a career in the private EMS sector. We wish him well in his future and thank him for his contributions to the Town.

Thank you to Town Manager Peter Lukes, the Board of Selectmen, and the Finance Committee for their continued support of the Holden Fire Department throughout 2022.

As always, thanks to all our dedicated staff at the Holden Fire Department for their hard work that saves lives and property each year in the Town of Holden.

Respectfully Submitted:

Russell Hall
Chief of Department



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

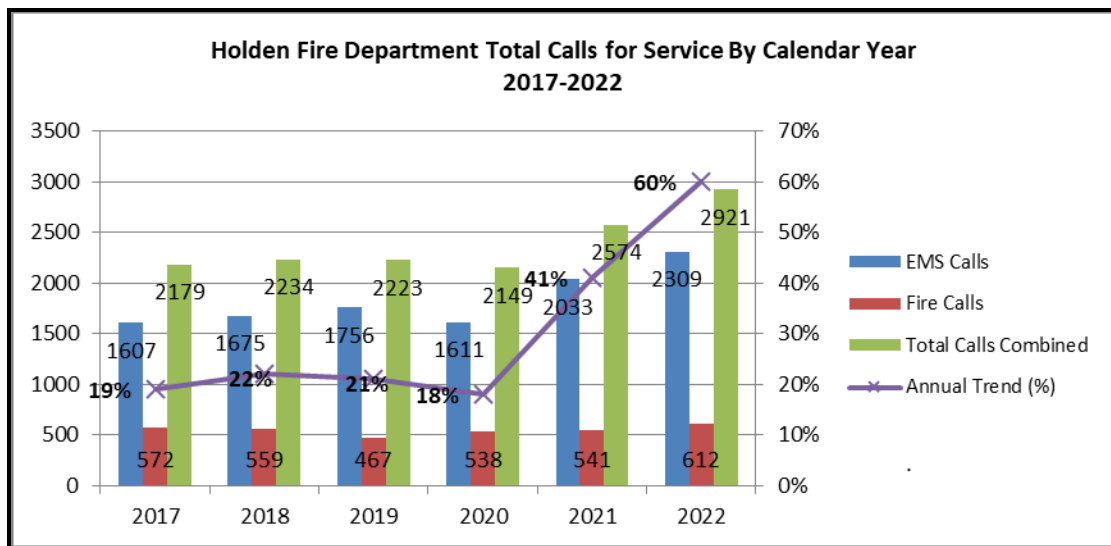
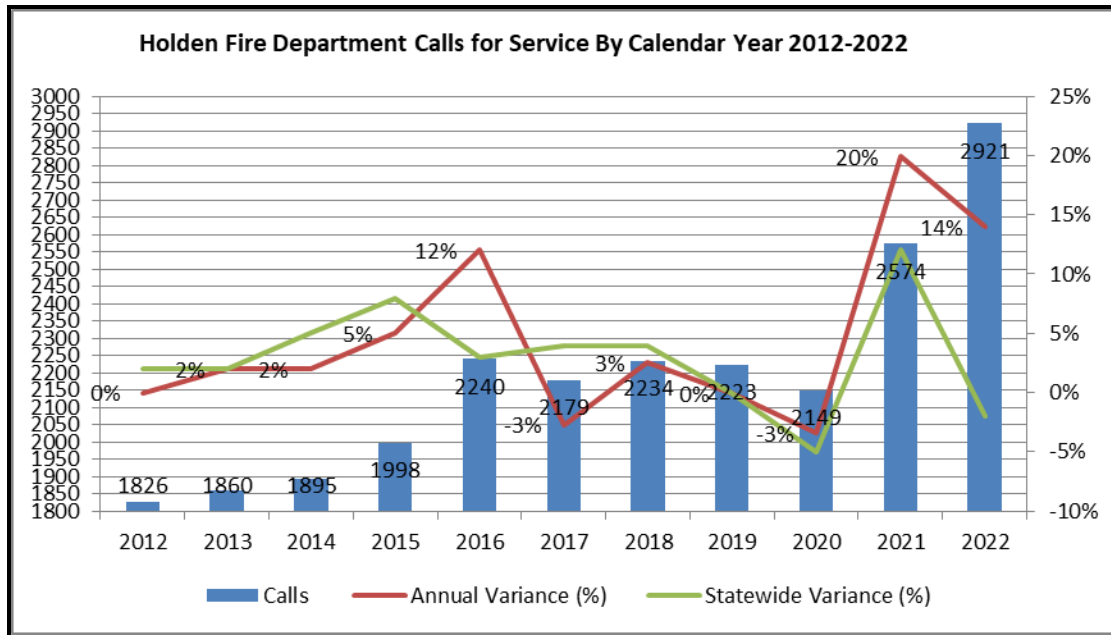
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

On duty staff responded to over 2,921 emergency calls for service in 2022. This was the busiest year on record for the department! On average, 79% of the emergency responses are medical emergencies. The department has seen a 44% increase in calls for service over the last 5 years. In comparing our department's growth percentage to all departments' statewide using National Fire Incident Reporting (NFIRs) data, the statewide average has been single digit and even negative call growth, whereas we have seen double digit growth in several of the years. Since acquiring the ambulance service in 2009, there has been a 96% rise in ambulance responses due to population growth, a larger aging population and additional healthcare facilities. In the past 10 years, fire related responses have increased 66%.

Princeton Street Fire



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division provides a full range of services to protect our citizens, visitors to our community, and employees of our local business against the loss of life and property through effective and innovative public safety services. The Division applies a proactive/ educational approach to Fire Prevention and encourages all to practice safety throughout the day... every day.

In 2022, the Fire Prevention Division continued to focus on providing plan reviews, inspections, and investigations aimed at ensuring a fire-safe community. Plan review projects ranged from large commercial projects to small tenant improvements; from single family dwellings to a large multiple unit apartment project at the former Jefferson Mill site. Additionally, construction of an 86 lot subdivision "Greenwood Estates" located off Union Street was started. This year alone, the Fire Prevention Division conducted over 1,152 inspections, issuing 912 permits.



Ice Rescue in Training

Deputy Chief Smith along with Holden Police Detective Ventres completed a basic fire investigation program offered by the Massachusetts Fire Academy, a course that focuses on fire and explosive investigations. The Department conducts an average of 5-8 investigations annually, ranging from outside fires to large loss building fires.

As laws, codes, and ordinances are continually changing, the fire prevention staff must maintain training and current certifications to meet the qualifications of their positions.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Holden Fire Department EMS service has continued its dedication to providing the highest level of pre-hospital emergency care. In 2022, the department once again set a milestone in EMS call volume and transports marking the busiest year for the EMS service since its inception, completing a nearly 400 EMS call increase since 2021.

The department has three Class 1 ambulances all outfitted to the Advanced Life Support level. Currently, the department staffs two of the ambulances to the ALS level 24 hours per day and seven days per week. We continue to see an uptick in the amount of simultaneous EMS calls, so the importance of additional ambulances being available is more apparent than ever. This year we finalized the purchasing process of the department's fourth ambulance, and anxiously await its anticipated delivery in the second half of FY23.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

For the second consecutive year we were awarded the American Heart Association's 2022 – Mission Lifeline Gold Award recognizing the department's ability to provide outstanding, timely care to patients experiencing heart attacks and strokes. This is the highest level presented to EMS agencies from the American Heart Association, and will remain the benchmark for Holden Fire moving forward.

In keeping steadfast in our mission to provide Holden residents and guests the best available pre-hospital patient care, we began the process of updating our transport ventilators to newer, safer, technology – purchasing a state-of-the-art Hamilton T1 ventilator. Training has been completed by our service providers and is in service.

Additionally, assisted by FF Ryan Casper, we placed single-gas Carbon Monoxide detectors on each of our ambulances medical bags. This increases the safety of our crew, and will also allow for early detection of carbon monoxide at medical calls.

As our department closes out another successful year, we are again reminded of the dedication and professionalism of all our EMT's and Paramedics. We are fortunate to have a staff of experienced providers who work tirelessly to make Holden a safer place for its residents and visitors.

Bailey Road Fire



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management ensures that the town is prepared to withstand, respond to and recovery from both natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. This is accomplished through coordinating the development of multi-departmental response and recovery plans as well as enhancing community resilience through community-level preparedness, education and training.

Emergency Management planning in Holden is overseen by the Fire Chief, who is also the Emergency Management Director. Within the Fire Department, the Emergency Management Coordinator carries out the coordination, planning and training aspects of emergency management for the town and is assisted by members of Holden Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Our CERT is comprised of volunteers who help during emergencies. Each member of our CERT team has completed a 20 hour, 9 module basic training program that spans over the course of several months. The basic training program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Holden CERT currently has 25 members with 6 new members that have joined the team during 2022. Holden CERT members have logged over 300 volunteer hours for the town this past year. Some of their activities this year have included:

- ❖ Provided staff the numerous COVID-19 regional public vaccination clinics held in Rutland and Sterling.
- ❖ Provided staff to assist the Wachusett Regional School District with their COVID-19 test and stay program.
- ❖ Assisted with firefighter rehabilitation at a large brush fire
- ❖ Assisted with parking and other logistics at several town sponsored events
- ❖ Provided preparedness trainings to the seniors living in town

During 2022, Emergency Management was focused on the town's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure adequate personal protective equipment supplies during supply chain disruptions as well as the distribution of state supplied testing supplies. As the year progressed, the Emergency Management Coordinator worked with the health department and Rutland regional vaccination clinics, at home booster vaccinations were scheduled and administered throughout the year to homebound and/or mobility impaired town residents to ensure access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

In addition to local planning, Holden's Emergency Management also coordinates all the planning activities for a regional Emergency Planning Committee; The South Wachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SWREPC). This regional planning committee, which is made up of the towns of Boylston, Holden, Sterling, and West Boylston, is established through the Federal Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986. Members represent all four towns and all key departments in those towns including: Administration, Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Light, Police and Fire, as well as local industry and organizations such as the American Red Cross and University of Massachusetts Medical School. The Committee looks at various types of disasters and hazardous material problems



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

that could impact the towns, develops plans to address those incidents, and tests those plans to ensure first responders are proficient with the plans to address these incidents. The Committee meets quarterly and works closely with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Annually, the committee conducts a major hazardous materials spill simulation to test our readiness and skills at responding as a unified team to a major disaster. The SWREPC is certified every five years by MEMA and was up for renewal in 2021. Throughout the year, the Emergency Management Coordinator worked with the Committee and MEMA on the application process and the committee was re-certified by MEMA for an additional five years in 2022.

Bailey Road Fire



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

The S.A.F.E. program is a state-wide initiative to teach Student Awareness and Fire Education to grade school children throughout the community. This program has also been expanded to include our elder community members as additional components were designed for the Senior S.A.F.E. program. The intention of S.A.F.E. is to provide fire and life safety education to school aged children so they begin to recognize the dangers of fire, fire hazards and avoid situations that are considered immediate danger to life and health. The curriculum is based upon essential and supplemental topics differentiated by grade level knowledge that builds upon concepts from previous years, similar to the Strands and Standards of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks of learning.

This year, the fire department was awarded the Department of Fire Services FY22 S.A.F.E. grant. With these funds, our S.A.F.E. Coordinator and fire educators taught fire safety/prevention education to our community students in grades kindergarten through grade 5 within the three elementary schools. Visits were made to our preschools and daycare centers to meet, greet, and educate young learners. These in-person events covered topics on when to call 911, understanding an emergency, who responds in the event of an emergency, and how to be prepared for emergencies without being scared if involved in emergent events. In October, the Department once again opened its doors to the public with our Annual Open House. This event was used to display apparatus, along with educate the public on what services they have in the event of an emergency. Working with the Department of Fire Service, the department was able to operate a district wide SAFE trailer. The trailer demonstrated realistic events that could take place in the event of a fire including smoky conditions, smoke behavior, how to safely practice getting low and moving, knowing the way out, and how to get to a safe meeting place.

The Fire Education program was again fortunate to be awarded the Senior S.A.F.E. grant as an extension to S.A.F.E. This portion of the grant is geared towards the seniors of the community to educate and advise participants through meeting groups and presentations. The Senior S.A.F.E. goals are to provide fire and life safety education to seniors to empower them to recognize the dangers of fire, poisoning, falls, and other medical emergencies. Using public events (Halloween in Holden, Picture Day With Santa, Holden Days, Open House, etc.), we were able to reach and connect with many older members of our community and provide them with short informational sessions and distribute educational materials for them to read at their leisure. The Fire Education Program continued to assist our community by continuing the Detector Exchange Program and provide on the job educational sessions. In efforts to keep out community safe, members of the Fire Department worked with several community residents to exchange over 35 expiring or defective smoke and CO detectors. This program is designed to educate and teach our seniors how to maintain and test their detectors to ensure that they remained safe year-round.

Although interactions, educational sessions, and station tours were limited this year due to the continued COVID-19 Pandemic, the Fire Education Program continued to reach out to the community and its members by using social media and posting informative educational posts on ways to be safe and identify potentially harmful situations.

We are pleased that the educational Public Fire and Life Safety Education Program will continue to be a part of the events that occur in town from Holden Days, Halloween in Holden, Community Reading Days at the elementary schools, as well as speaking with the Boys and Girl Scout Troops throughout town.

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Timothy J. Sherblom
Alisha Ali - Department Secretary
Johanna Adams - Department Administrator

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT



I think I can speak for the entire police department by saying we are happy to have the pandemic in our rearview mirror! I want to start off by saying how proud I am of the men and woman of the Holden Police Department and the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communication Center. All of the credit for our success goes to them. I provide the direction but they are the ones who carry out my vision and I am extremely pleased with their level of dedication and professionalism. This has been an exciting year for us and I would like to highlight some of the successful programs we have instituted in the last year!

Since taking over as Chief, getting the police department accredited through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission was one of my primary goals. I am proud to announce that the Holden Police Department was awarded this milestone in October making us one of only a handful of departments in Worcester County to achieve this level of professional excellence. I would also like to mention that the Holden Police Department has begun the process to become nationally accredited through CALEA. If we achieve this goal, we will be one of five departments in Massachusetts to be nationally accredited. I want to thank Lieutenant Chris Noyes and Sergeant Gregg Sculthorpe who put in countless hours so that our accreditation process would be successful.

I am also pleased to announce that our K9 unit is on the road and fully trained! K9 "Tahoe" and his handler Officer Bob Murray completed months of training at the Boston Police K9 Academy. K9 Tahoe is trained in patrol work, tracking, and narcotics detection. K9 Tahoe will be instrumental in finding dangerous drugs that come into our community, locating lost people in need of help and



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apprehending dangerous criminals who recklessly flee. K9 Tahoe has already proved to be a wonderful asset to our department and will continue to be an integral part of our team. Additionally, the police department welcomed "Officer Tully" to our team. Tully is a lab puppy that will be trained as a comfort dog. Tully will be assigned to Wachusett Regional High School with his handler, School Resource Officer Dan Contois. As you can imagine, Tully is already a BIG hit with the high school kids!

Due to a declining interest in law enforcement as a career, staffing the department continues to be a challenge. Despite this, we are committed to hiring only the best possible candidates to fill our ranks. All of our police officers are carefully selected and we would rather leave a position unfilled than fill it with the wrong person. All of our police officers go through a rigorous background check, physical and psychological examinations and then attend a six month police academy. After successfully graduating from the academy they are required to complete our two month field training program where they are constantly evaluated for their performance by veteran police officers. Although the process is lengthy and time consuming, it ensures that we are hiring only the best possible officers to serve the citizens of Holden.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Lieutenant Christopher Noyes

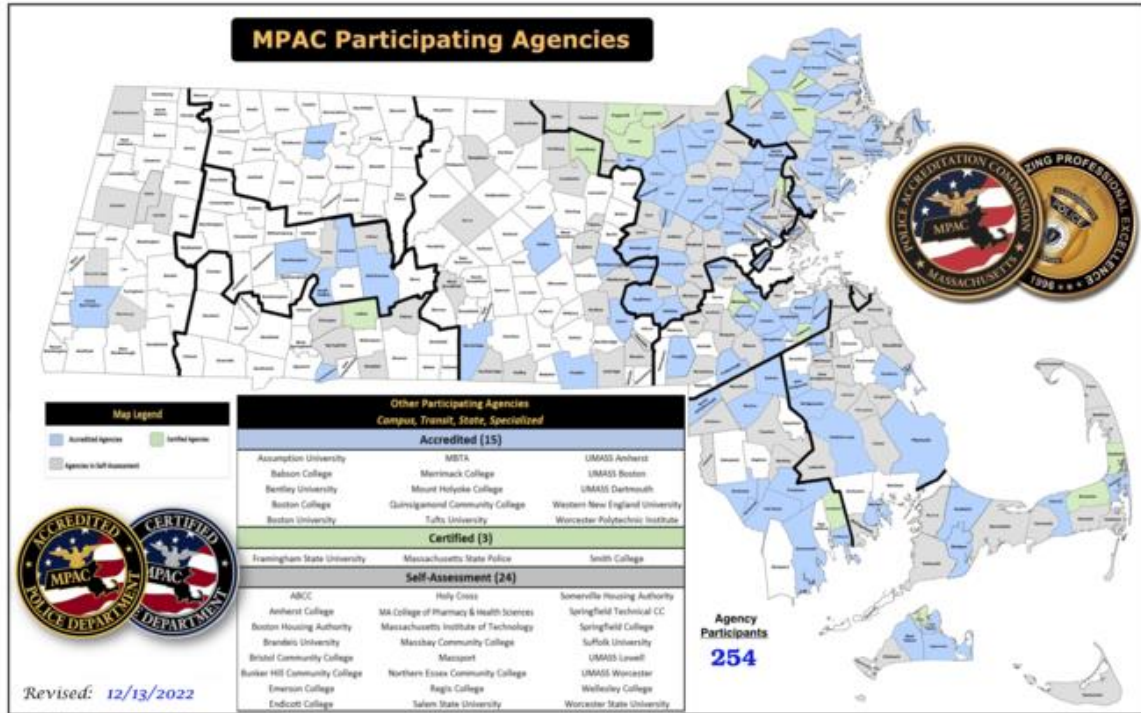
As the Executive Officer to the Chief's Office my duties and responsibilities lay within the administrative functions of the police department. My most important responsibilities include the following:

1. The management of the department's accreditation team.
2. The handling of internal affairs investigations for the department.
3. Oversight of the Animal Control Division.
4. Oversight of the Traffic Safety and Enforcement Unit.
5. The writing and submission of state, federal and private grants for the department.
6. Department Liaison to the Massachusetts Police Training Committee.
7. Department Liaison to Massachusetts Civil Service.

ACCREDITATION TEAM

The accreditation team has worked diligently to maintain the status of the Holden Police Department as a certified organization since 2003. The department has consistently met the standards set forth by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. What this means is that our agency agrees to a peer review every three years by a group of objective assessors who have been appointed by the commission. These assessors work with our accreditation team in order to confirm compliance with professional standards that are deemed as best practices to be followed administratively and operationally by the department. Agencies that are committed to accreditation agree to correct any deficiencies that may be discovered during the assessment process in order to maintain compliance. It is through this process that

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT



the department communicates to the Town that our agency is committed to professional excellence within the work place and for our community.

On October 26th, 2022, our department was awarded with full accreditation. This award was achieved due to the hard work and effort put in by my accreditation team member Sgt. Gregg Sculthorpe. We are currently working to update our accreditation status in order to comply with the most current sixth edition standards. We have also started work towards achieving full national accreditation status through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). CALEA is very similar to Massachusetts accreditation, with the main difference being that it is on the federal level. Very few Massachusetts communities are federally accredited through CALEA.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT

Last year the department added a motorcycle officer to the Traffic Safety and Enforcement Unit. The new position will add an additional officer to the existing unit in order to bolster the police department's ability to enforce traffic laws throughout the town. The mission of this unit is to enhance public safety through fair and reasonable enforcement of motor vehicle laws.

Officer Jonathan Bourget will be appointed as the new motorcycle officer on May 1st, 2023. He will be assisting the current traffic officer, Ofc. Jonathan Santimore. The unit's responsibilities will include the enforcement of all traffic laws and regulations of the commonwealth. Daily duties include:

- ❖ Enforce the rules of the road and signage
- ❖ Ensure that motorists and pedestrians use our roads in a safe and orderly manner

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- ❖ Ensure the safe and free flow of traffic to prevent road crashes and deaths on our roads
- ❖ Participation in traffic safety programs that involve the youth of our community

The Traffic Unit has a dedicated phone line 508-210-5610 for any traffic issues that need to be reported. A dedicated e-mail trafficconcerns@holdenma.gov can also be used to field traffic complaints and issues. This year the department deployed 2 speed limit radar signs and a speed limit radar trailer. The department deploys these units based on traffic safety needs.

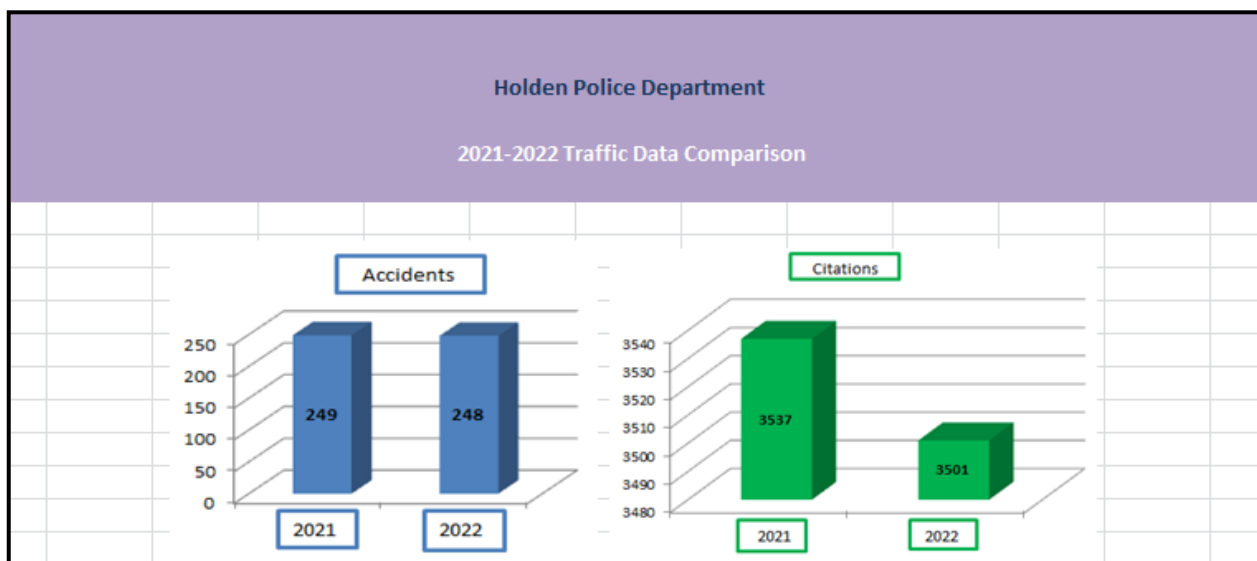
This year saw a total of 248 motor vehicle accidents, down one accident from a year ago. The amount of motor vehicle citations issued went down from 3,537 in 2021 to 3,501 in 2022. Of that number, Officer Santimore contributed to approximately 30% of those citations. The following graphs depict the differences between both categories in the years 2021-2022.

GRANT WRITING AND AWARDS

Another important responsibility of the administrative division is the searching for and writing of grants. Most of the grants the department is awarded come from state and federal governments, as well as from the private sector. These grants are used to fund various projects and trainings for the department, which in turn has a direct impact on the community.

The requirements for the Stanton Foundation Grant the department received last year for our K9 have been met. Ofc. Murray and his K9 Tahoe are now fully trained and working patrol.

The department was awarded its second Municipal Road Safety Grant this year with an award totaling \$29,965. This money has been awarded to the department for the purpose of aiding in extra traffic enforcement, with a focus on several of the leading contributing offenses that are known to cause motor vehicle accidents and injuries. These motor vehicle offenses include impaired driving (OUI), distracted driving, seatbelt violations, and speeding. The enforcement periods are divided up into a total of six campaigns throughout the year, with two campaigns each of speeding enforcement and impaired driving enforcement. We hope these campaigns help to increase awareness of the dangers imposed by these



infractions, and to reduce the occurrence of motor vehicle accidents.

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DEPARTMENT LIAISON TO MPTC AND CIVIL SERVICE

As the department's liaison to POST and the Massachusetts Police Training Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure that each officer meets 40 hours of mandatory in-service training per year. This year's training requirement included legal updates, firearms training, CPR/first responder, hate crimes, duty to intervene, trauma informed policing, responding to interpersonal violence, frontline digital evidence, and preventing officer crises. I am also responsible for registering newly hired recruits for the police academy. The MPTC continues to be a valuable resource for the department and maintains up to date yearly trainings for our officers.

As the department's liaison to the Massachusetts Civil Service, it is my responsibility to ensure the department follows the hiring procedures and guidelines set forth by Massachusetts Civil Service. This includes the vetting of each new recruit through a rigorous background investigation and interviewing process. Upon successful completion of the background and interview process, each new recruit must then pass a physical and psychological exam, as well as a physical fitness test – all before they are eligible to attend a police academy. This year our department hired 3 police officer vacancies filled through Civil Service, and they will all be attending a police academy over the next few months. This year, the Office of Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) will continue to recertify officers with the state.

HOLDEN ANIMAL CONTROL

The Holden Animal Control Division consists of full time Animal Control Officer Thomas Walsh and part time Animal Control Officer Matthew DeCiero. ACO Walsh is responsible for weekday operations, 7a-3p Monday-Friday while ACO DeCiero will be staffing the office on the weekends, 8a-4p, Saturdays and Sundays.



The Office of Animal Control and Protection was created to serve the citizens of Holden. We work in conjunction with law enforcement, Massachusetts Wildlife, the Department of Agriculture and the Humane Society. Responsibilities include the administrative aspects of the animal control department, constant monitoring of lost and found pets and reuniting them with their families. Other responsibilities include the licensing of dogs

with the town clerk's office, quarantine when necessary, handling nuisance animal complaints, and the inspection of barns and livestock. We also patrol the town's parks, forests and cemeteries and actively engage in enforcement of the town's bylaws as they pertain to animals. In 2022 the Office of Animal Control responded to 827 calls for service. With the assistance of Second Chance Animal Shelter, a rabies clinic was held in which 90 dogs and 12 cats received the rabies vaccine. The Town licensed 2,981 dogs. There are also 5 active kennels in Town.

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OPERATIONS DIVISION

Operations Lieutenant Adam Porcaro

The Operations Lieutenant oversees the various components of the Police Department and reports directly to the Police Chief. Police operations are the backbone of any police department; the various operational components are crucial to ensuring that the primary mission of the department is accomplished. Operations within the Holden Police Department include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ The scheduling and supervision of police personnel
- ❖ Field training program manager
- ❖ School Resource Officers oversight
- ❖ Specialized training, critical incident planning and response
- ❖ Traffic safety and enforcement
- ❖ Coordination of regional support elements
- ❖ Building security
- ❖ Strategic deployment of resources
- ❖ Disaster preparedness
- ❖ Oversight of specialty positions such as Police Motorcycle and K9 Unit

Staffing this past year was an ever fluid process. The Holden Police Department hired three new police officers. All of the new hires will be attending the police academy this year. Two officers will be attending the Boylston Police Academy in April, 2023 and one will be attending in October, 2023. Conversely, two long-time officers have retired this year. The two retirements created two of the vacancies that have been filled. The goal is to bring department staffing numbers closer to the nationally recommended staffing levels. These numbers are based on population size among other considerations.

Candidates for the position of police officer are now more limited than in years past. It is no secret that policing in America is changing. The once coveted title of police officer is now more often the subject of debate. We found that hiring a good candidate in 2022 to be an exhausting process. The department's most recent hires are town residents. Sadly it would seem that motivation to become a police officer is trending downward. Although the social climate may push toward a shift in the paradigm, the need for good police officers has not diminished.

This year, the department hired a fifth sergeant to replace the Sergeant slotted to fill the role of Detective Sergeant. The Detective Sergeant has control of the detective bureau and has the good fortune of supervising two very competent detectives that comprise the unit. Proactive case management and long term criminal investigations are better served with the addition of a dedicated Detective Sergeant. Without the position, continued involvement in regional, state, and task force supported cases will eventually wane, and increased caseloads will ultimately result in less fruitful endeavors. Generally, cases that involve extensive follow-up, sensitive information, outside resources, or a multi-jurisdictional response are handled by detectives.

The Holden Police Department is an affiliate member of ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children. This department's involvement remains a priority. In Massachusetts, The Massachusetts State Police (MSP) acts as the referral agency for all cases that fall within the scope of ICAC. MSP assigns cases to local affiliate departments for investigation. In this way, investigations begin on the local level and incorporate additional state, local, or federal resources as needed. This type of case is often the most disturbing and

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mentally taxing work for a detective. They require extensive information gathering, usually involving time-consuming and tedious process of search warrant applications, and the subject matter can be devastating. In all these cases, the unfathomable reality is that children are the victims. Therefore, the reward of successful prosecution makes it all worthwhile. These suspects quietly exist in unsuspecting communities; aggressive, proactive investigations are often the only way that they are discovered and apprehended. With the addition of a Detective Sergeant, detectives will have more time to actively pursue such cases.

The sergeants report directly to the Operations Lieutenant and are responsible for the supervision of all patrolmen. One of their primary responsibilities is overseeing new recruit Field Training. The Holden Police Department has approximately eight certified field training officers and each FTO works to meet that challenge.

The Holden Police have one patrol officer and two Sergeants that are active members of the Army, Airforce Reserve and Army National Guard respectively. Each service member is dually obligated to the department and to his military unit. In an agency the size of the Holden Police Department, when a service member(s) is deployed or assigned to training, their absence does not go unnoticed. Nonetheless, their call to duty is strongly supported by their peers and commanding officers. Ofc. Chris Meservey was promoted into the role of one of our newest Patrol Sergeants. This will fill the fifth sergeant position which will return the department to its full supervisory contingent.

Adam Porcaro Operations Lieutenant

DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Holden Police Detective Bureau consists of a Detective Sergeant, three Detectives and a Juvenile Detective/ School Resource Officer who are tasked with conducting a broad range of investigative assignments. This year we were fully staffed with detectives assigned to all day and evening shifts, seven days a week.

The Detective Bureau is required to assume responsibility for any cases where a complex follow-up investigation is required and necessary or any other matter determined by the Chief of Police to be appropriate. The Detective Bureau is also responsible for the processing and investigation of all crime scenes including latent print detection/processing and photographic documentation. The Detectives are trained in many areas, consisting of Investigations of Property Crimes, Sexual Assault Investigation, Serious Motor Vehicle Crashes, Cyber Crimes, Internet Crimes Against Children, Fraud/Identity Theft and any Loss of Life.

The Detective Bureau cooperates with other city, state, and federal agencies in investigating incidents, utilizing task forces or other cooperative means. The Holden Police Detectives currently are members and attend the Worcester B&E Task Force, Worcester Street Violence Prevention Group, and the Organized Retail Crime meetings. These groups/meetings are a great testimony of sharing police information and resources amongst local, state and federal agencies.

The Holden Police Detective Bureau has consistently seen a high volume in cybercrimes and fraudulent activity. It is very important to never give personal information to anyone over the phone or from a computer that you are not one hundred percent certain of who you are speaking with. Scam artists prey on the elderly by instilling doubt and fear, with threats of a warrant or arrest if they do not cooperate. The

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scam artist then requests money transactions, gift cards/numbers or money to be given or sent to them. The Holden Police Detective Bureau recommends yearly checks of your credit report, to notify a family member, friend or the police before sending any money.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

I've completed the National Association of School Resource Officer's course which included in specific in depth training and discussions on the following topics:

Understanding students with special needs

- ❖ I.D.E.A
- ❖ 504
- ❖ IEP
- ❖ Adverse childhood experience (ACEs study)
- ❖ Basic principles of informal counseling
- ❖ Social media safety
- ❖ Adolescence and the teen brain
- ❖ Violence and victimization in regards to its impact on development (trauma-informed care)
- ❖ Social media and cyber security
- ❖ Sex trafficking of youth
- ❖ School law
- ❖ Developing successful relationships with students
- ❖ Effects of youth trends and drugs on the school culture and environment
- ❖ Threat response
- ❖ School safety and emergency operations planning
- ❖ Crime prevention
- ❖ School safety assessment surveys

Some of my other training and experience includes:

- ❖ Crisis negotiations
- ❖ De-escalation
- ❖ Advanced medical training
- ❖ Gangs
- ❖ Child exploitation
- ❖ Sexual assault investigations
- ❖ Suicide prevention
- ❖ Instructor level certifications in law enforcement response to active shooter
- ❖ And a combined total of 14 years of Military & law enforcement experience
- ❖ Crisis Intervention

My daily activities at the school consist of, but are not limited to, school security, traffic, following up with students, parents, and school administration on out of school issues, liaison between outside agencies such as local police departments, DCF, and Devereux, I provide guidance to school admin on Mass laws. I also assist in physical security surveys, and assist in school drills such as active shooter. I also respond to all of the many medical emergencies that take place in and on school grounds.

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I assist the school in handling larceny's, thefts, fights, bullying, use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, mental health crisis, de-escalation, section 12's, section 35's, 51a DCF referrals, car accidents on the property and vandalism. With the help of school administration I have been able to effectively handle many of these issues at the school level without having to file any criminal charges.

I investigate all juvenile sexual assault / harassment cases and assist the victims with resources, (medical, mental, emotional) and promote child advocacy by working directly with resources in Worcester County.

A major part of this role is to form positive relationships with students, in doing so; I participate in classes as a guest speaker on an almost daily basis. I have been invited into many classrooms, and I interact with students every day. This has assisted me in my goal to become a positive role model and an informal counselor to the amazing students at Wachusett and to be a resource for staff, students, and parents.

Some of the topics we talk about in class listed below.

- ❖ Finger prints and forensics, DNA, radar and lidar / science
- ❖ Accident reconstruction / math and physics
- ❖ Public speaking, report writing / English
- ❖ Law, civil rights, Massachusetts declaration of rights / History & Social Studies
- ❖ Drugs, alcohol, vaping, tobacco / health and physical education
- ❖ Crime scene sketches, photography / Art
- ❖ Driver education

A new addition to our SRO program this year was a comfort dog, Tully, an English Lab. Officer Daniel Contois was able to acquire Tully from Boonefield Labs, a breeder known for comfort dogs that have successfully partnered dozens of comfort dogs with police in schools all throughout New England. The comfort dog came at no cost to the tax payers, as Officer Dan has paid for all the costs of the dog, training, food, and vet bills out of his own pocket. The primary function of the comfort dog is to aid in the schools as a positive distraction to students in times of crisis, and trauma, as well as aid in de-escalation, and assist in times of mental health crisis, and assist juveniles who may have been the victim of a crime who require comfort during interviews, or testimony.

D. A. Contois
Holden Police / SRO



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

WACHUSETT REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



The Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center (WRECC) is located within the Public Safety Building at 1370 Main St., in Holden, MA. The WRECC fields all calls for service for the towns of Holden, Princeton, West Boylston and Paxton. The center is comprised of twelve full time dispatchers, and five part time dispatchers.

The WRECC is responsible for 23 departments. This mainly includes Police, Fire, EMS, and Animal Control, and all Public Works, Water Departments, and four municipal Light Departments after normal business hours. The WRECC also deals with 9 primary and secondary schools, Anna Maria College, Rt. 190, Wachusett Mountain, multiple reservoirs, Rail Trails, and parks within their jurisdiction. Both PanAm Railways and the Providence and Worcester Railroad are also included.

In 2022, the WRECC fielded approximately 53,000 calls for service. The center answered 3,796 wired 911 calls, 6,668 wireless 911 calls, and 11 texts through the E-911 system for a total of 10,475 911 calls. The WRECC took 6,947 Fire/ EMS calls combined for all four towns.

The dispatchers are responsible for providing pre-arrival instructions when applicable in emergency situations before the arrival of first responders, and also need to relay pertinent information to all responding units. Aside from handling all business and emergency calls for service, the WRECC is also responsible for a wide variety of clerical and emergency tasks that support the emergency operations, and coordinating activities with other departments and agencies. This includes all entries in the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Information System and National Criminal Information Center networks. Dispatch is the first point of contact for all incoming walk-in parties, monitors multiple radio frequencies, audio and video equipment, and logs all calls into the computer aided dispatch system.

2022 DISPATCH STATISTICS

Total calls logged into system	52,934
Total 911 Calls Received	10,464
Total Text-to-911 Received	11
Total arrests	439
Total accidents	460
Total Fire/EMS Calls	6,947

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT STATE 911 GRANTS FY2023

Training Grant

\$42,546.896

This grant is to fund both the costs of training and the overtime for each dispatcher's annual continuing education requirements.

Support and Incentive Grant

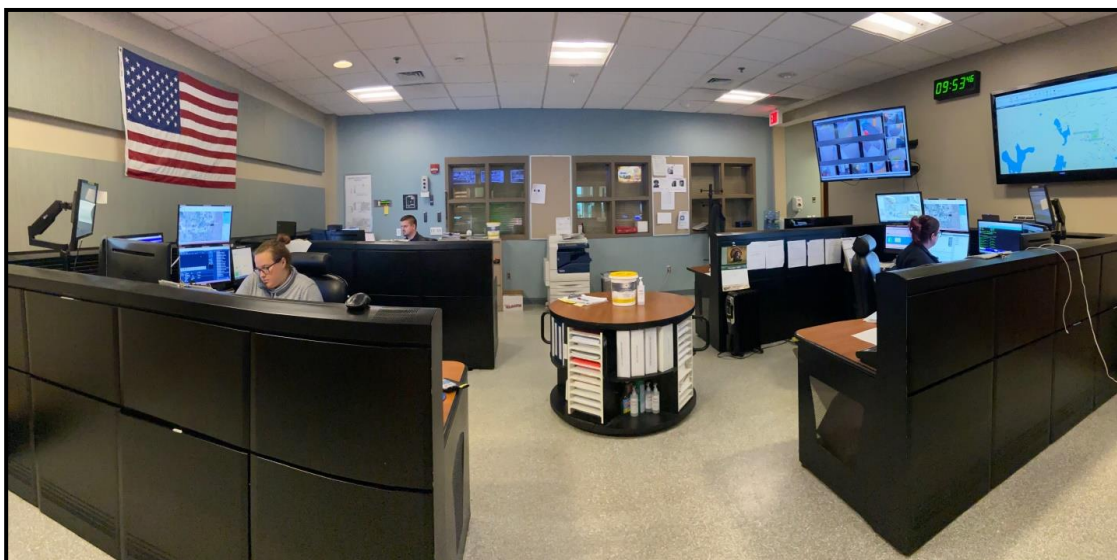
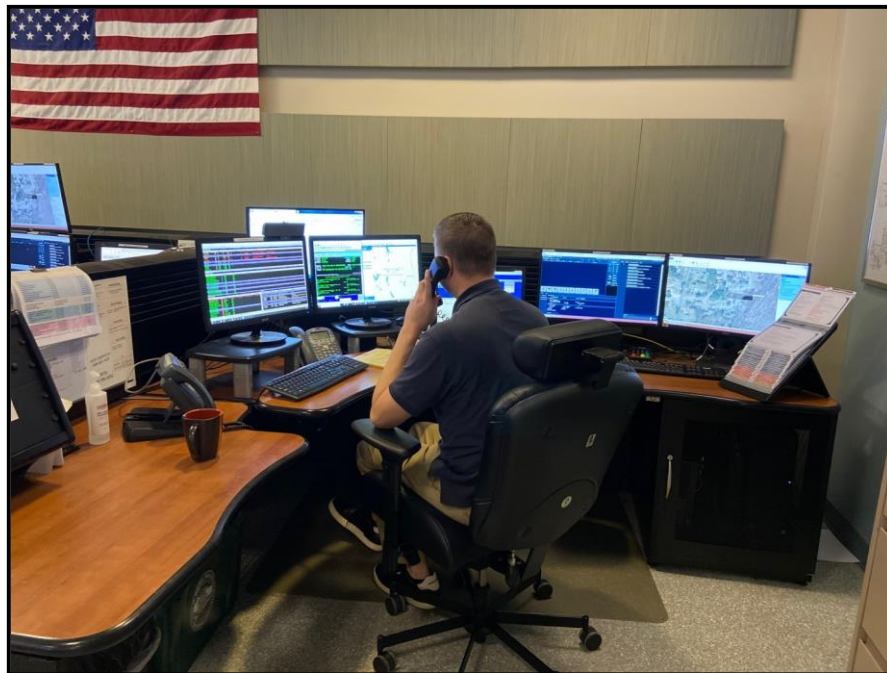
\$504,347

This grant is used to help pay for the personnel wages for the WRECC.

FY2023 Development Grant

\$774,041

This funding was used for mobiles and portables for both Holden and Paxton.



PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Department Personnel

Jocelyn LaPlante – Director of Communications
Amy Savasta – Deputy Director of Communications

TRAINING COORDINATOR
Danielle Beland

SHIFT SUPERVISOR
Abbi Parkinson

FULL TIME DISPATCHERS
Alexa Owen
Elizabeth Consiglio
Panajoti Samarxhi
Emily LeBeau
Ashley McCall
Megean Mulcahy
Meghan Sendrowski
Alice Ordnung
Peter Colebrook

PART TIME DISPATCHERS
Jasmine Barry
Cody Willman
Zevon Zayas-Colon
David Sherblom

Department Contact Information
Wachusett RECC
1370 Main St, Holden, MA 01520

Direct Line: 508-210-5646
Fax: 508-829-9175
Email: holdendispatch@holdenma.gov

Jocelyn M. LaPlante
Communications Director- Holden Police Department

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Pamela Harding – Director/Planner (resigned October - right center)
David Lindberg – Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer (left center)
Carol Perkins – Senior Clerk (right)
Denise Monteiro – Senior Clerk (left)
Glenda Williamson – Conservation Agent

The Department of Planning and Development is responsible for the regulatory review and analysis of the numerous development proposals brought before various town boards and commissions. Building Inspection, Planning, Conservation, Zoning, and Health, are the main program directions for the department. The Department also administers the Residential Curbside Recycling and Trash Collection Program.

The town has in place a streamlined permitting process that provides clear and concise information to applicants, provides a mechanism for technical review prior to the submission of an application, and allows for timely review by various town departments and committees or boards. Subdivisions of land, new housing developments, and site plans for commercial development are subject to this process. These projects are planned and completed in a highly regulated environment designed to provide the community with projects that respect the environment, minimize the impact on town resources and services while complementing the fabric and character of Holden.

The Town of Holden is provided health services through the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition through a grant. This contract terminates the end of fiscal year 2024, and may possibly be negotiated again if the grant is extended. By regionalizing these services each town gets the benefits of a much larger staff with each member of the staff having expertise in a specific area of public health rather than having one agent who may not have training or education in all of the areas required in today's complex public health environment. In Fiscal year 2024, Board of Health services will run through our Emergency Management/Fire Department to mesh better with other public health services.

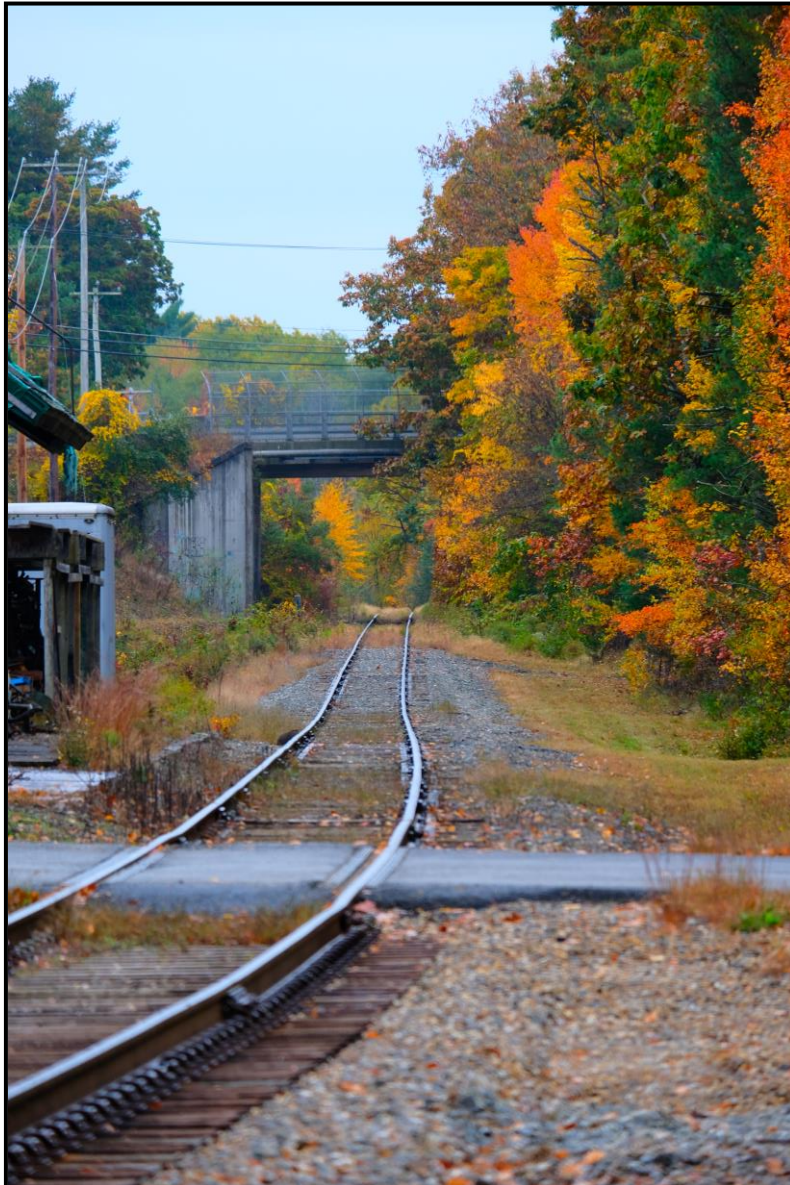
The Department continues to work with the Recreation Department and the Central Massachusetts Planning Agency to implement goals in the Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well as the town's Master Plan.

The Department also worked collaboratively with the Department of Public Works and Fire Department to begin an assessment and re-use analysis of the former DPW site located on Adams Road. This property is located at a critical entrance to the Town of Holden. The Town is currently working to remove underground storage tanks that were once used to fuel DPW's fleet, as well as remove the old DPW

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

garage and fire substation. A new design is being looked into for the fire station which, along with possible plans to create more commercial availability along Adams Road.

By way of ARPA funds and state earmarks, the Town was able to remove an abandoned home on Princeton Street by tax title taking and remove a dilapidated barn on the former ECC property located at 156 Princeton Street. The Town has continued to work with the EPA and DEP for remediation and additional assessments at this site.



Rail Road Tracks – Photo by Keith Williams

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING BOARD

Pamela Harding, Director
Sara Flagg, Recording Secretary

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Carlson – Chair
Robert Ricker – Vice Chair
Nancy Kielinen - Secretary
Otto Lies
James Parker
Brynn Zawada
Francis Doyle

RELATED COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPS

Otto Lies-Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

Planning Board Meetings:

Second and fourth Tuesday of every month except in July, and December
when one meeting per month is held.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The general purpose of the Planning Board is to provide for and guide the orderly growth and development of the community. This is accomplished primarily through development of a Master Plan for the Town, the Zoning Bylaw, and the Planning Board's Rules and Regulations Governing Subdivision of Land. The purpose of these administrative duties is to ensure the public safety, interest and welfare of the residents of the Town within the Planning Board's functional areas as mandated by statutes and local bylaws and regulations. The Planning Board is responsible for the administration of the Subdivision Control Law pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41 and its Rules and Regulations, to provide ways that are safe and adequate for pedestrian and vehicular access. The Board conducts meetings and public hearings in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws to review and consider subdivision plans and Approval Not Required plans. The Planning Board also makes recommendations on the laying out and acceptance of public ways. Another important function of the Planning Board is to consider and prepare amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw. The Board conducts public hearings on amendments drafted by the Board and on amendments that are submitted by citizen petition or landowners.

SUBDIVISION CONTROL REGULATIONS

Subdivision Control Regulations provide design guidelines and construction standards for new roadways constructed within Town to ensure adequate and safe access.

ZONING BYLAWS

The Town of Holden Zoning Bylaws establish regulations about various land uses throughout the Town. Amendments to the Town Zoning Bylaws require the Planning Board to conduct a public hearing and

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING BOARD

provide a recommendation at Town Meeting. Zoning Articles require a 2/3 vote at Town meeting to pass. The Planning Board in conjunction with the Building department, Zoning department and CMRPC will work to update the out dated Zoning By-laws in 2023-2024.

The Planning Board will continue to evaluate the existing Village Zoning District located in the Jefferson area of Holden. The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission spearheaded this study with the Board and analyzed existing and proposed land uses, identifying possibilities for expansion and amendments to the Bylaw. The Board began Phase II of this study which is creating a new Village Bylaw creating a mixed use area.

In addition to these duties, regular business of the Planning Board includes the review of applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Zoning Administrator for variances and special permits, and participation in the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). I would like to thank the Planning Board who work hard throughout the year and volunteer their personal time for the betterment of our community.



Maple Spring Pond – Photo by Norm Vigeant

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING INSPECTIONS AND CODE COMPLIANCE

David Lindberg – Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Carol Perkins – Senior Clerk

Denise Monteiro – Senior Clerk

Paul Kathman – Inspector of Wires

Gary Harrington – Alternate Inspector of Wires

Peter Liddy – Alternate Inspector of Wires

Rick Travers – Part-Time Building Inspector

George Mioglionico – Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Mike Russ – Alternate Plumbing/Gas Inspector

The Building Department remained busy as construction activity remained brisk. During the year, we issued over 1800 permits for building, electrical, plumbing/gas, and sheet metal work. Within those permits, there were many new single-family homes built, which continues to prove that Holden is a desirable place in which to live. Other projects included additions/renovations, wood/pellet stoves, finished basements, and photovoltaic solar installations. Still others included swimming pools, central air conditioning, gas fireplaces, and many more.

Processing all those permits and managing the scheduling of inspections, upkeep of our data management software, and our administrative support to various town boards requires competent and engaged team players. Carol Perkins and Denise Monteiro continue to provide high-level customer service. Paul Kathman and George Mioglionico, electrical and plumbing inspectors, respectively, and Rick Travers, local building inspector, continue to serve the Town with their deep knowledge and experience in their given fields.

Zoning enforcement and land use issues add a different level of interaction between town staff and the public. At its most basic, enforcement can be simply educating people as to how the bylaws pertain to their individual circumstance. Often it progresses beyond that- to the point of a flagrant disregard for the rules, which then takes additional time and different strategies. Conversely, it is very rewarding when a new business calls looking for space in our community and we are able to find them a suitable match. Working with the Zoning Board of Appeals and other town departments has resulted in a high success rate in resolving zoning issues.

TYPE OF PERMIT	# OF PERMITS	CONSTRUCTION COST	PERMIT FEES
Building	869	\$30,633,299	\$122,802
Electrical	448	\$2,444,049	\$36,465
Gas	272	\$1,544,638	\$42,435
Plumbing	216	\$744,703	\$26,255
Sheet Metal	18	\$547,800	\$900
TOTALS	1,823	\$35,914,489	\$228,857

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

David Lindberg – Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Carol Perkins – Secretary

Ronald Spakauskas – Chairman

Silvio Annunziata

Roy Fraser III

James Deignan

David George

Brian Parry (1st alternate)

Frederick Lonardo (2nd alternate)

The ZBA has the authority to hear appeals of building permit denials by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, to grant variances for circumstances where zoning requirements cannot be met, and to grant special permits based on use where required by Holden's bylaws. Cases which do not involve any change in the building footprint are handled by the Zoning Administrator who is appointed by the ZBA and confirmed by the Board of Selectmen. This position is held by the Senior Planner and frees up time for the ZBA to offer a higher level of service to residents.



Union Pond – Photo by Norm Vigeant

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Glenda Williamson - Conservation Agent

Sara Flagg – Recording Secretary

Mike Scott, Chair

Kenneth Strom, Vice Chair

Luke Boucher

David Nyman

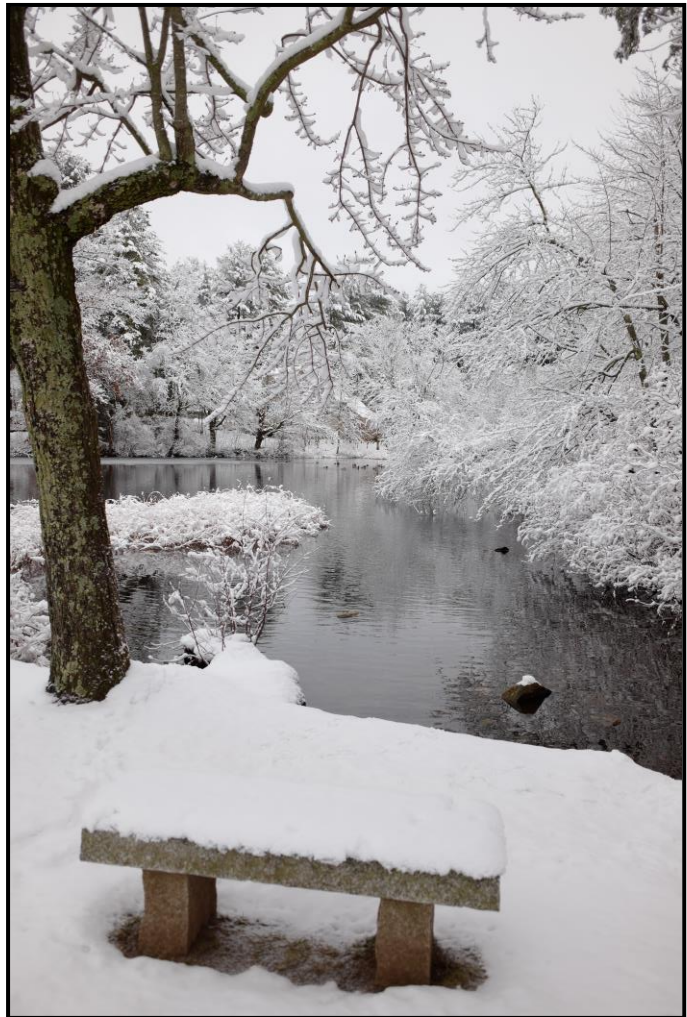
Heather Parry

Elizabeth Parent

Hannah Lipper

The Holden Conservation Commission is a seven member board responsible for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MAWPA), M.G.L. 131 Section 40, and the Town of Holden Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month and the public is welcome to attend.

The Commission created a local Wetlands Bylaw adopted at Town Meeting in 2011. The local bylaw authorizes the Commission to implement a 100 foot buffer for all vernal pools, both certified and non-certified. The bylaw also places a 25-foot upland buffer (No-Disturb Zone) adjacent to all resource areas. All placement of fill or disturbance of land area within 100 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland and within 200 feet of a perennial stream must file and receive approval from the Commission. The Commission regularly conducts site inspections to review proposed residential, commercial and municipal projects.



Trout Brook – Photo by Keith Williams

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SEALERS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Joseph T. Mulvey
Sealer of Weights and Measures

The Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for inspecting all weighing and measuring devices on an annual basis to ensure accuracy as set forth by the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Weights and Measures. All commercial devices used in the sale of commodities and services to consumers within the Town of Holden are inspected, tested, sealed and/or condemned each year based on the tolerances prescribed by state law. The Department's program of inspections works to promote and ensure protection for consumers and value and fairness to all commercial transactions.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SOLID WASTE/TRASH COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

The Town of Holden operates a curbside recycling and trash collection program for single family residences and apartment buildings with fewer than four residential units. For a monthly fee, residential trash is collected curbside on a weekly basis and recyclable materials are collected curbside bi-weekly. The program provides each residence with a blue trash cart and a green recycling cart. All the carts are equipped with wheels and lids.

The collection of trash and recyclable materials is done by a private firm, Casella Waste Services, under long term contract to the town for this service. The current contract with Casella expires at the end of FY 2025.

Casella processes the recyclable materials at the Single Stream Recycling Facility in Auburn, MA. This facility was a first of its kind, recyclable materials sorting facility. The recycling market is still dramatically changing, resulting in a national decrease in the aggregate resale value, the market fluctuates based on quantity of materials and after market trends.

Residential waste is taken to the Wheelabrator incineration facility in Millbury, MA. The Town of Holden with the City of Worcester and several other central Massachusetts communities worked together with Waste Management in 1983 to build a municipal solid waste facility to incinerate trash and generate electricity. Prior to that agreement ending in 2027, 47 central Massachusetts communities worked with Wheelabrator to negotiate the renewal of that contract. The Wheelabrator facility was sold to another company that specializes in waste to energy facilities. The new entity, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. in negotiations with the 47 CMRRC communities agreed to an annual increase based on the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI) for Northeast Urban Wage Earners.

The Department of Planning and Development provides program administration and coordinates the necessary efforts between the Holden Municipal Light Department which bills residents for the service, and the Department of Public Works whose personnel assist with the distribution and maintenance of the trash and recycling carts. Public Works also operates the yard waste and composting facility at the former municipal landfill on River Road which is a service available to all residents of Holden. In addition to administration, staff connected to Planning and Development create and provide information to residents about the Recycling and Trash Program, develop calendars and other mailings sent to residents to encourage recycling. Much of this material is sent to residents in their monthly utility billing.

Casella is responsible for the storage and purchase of all trash containers and the Town of Holden is responsible for the purchase of all recycling containers. Casella has assumed the responsibility of storing these containers free of charge. Replacement containers and new service deliveries are all handled by Casella for a fee.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTER

2022 Board of Directors:
 Connie Burr (Rutland),
 Norma Chanis (Clerk-West Boylston),
 William Cronin (Holden),
 Susan Farr (Vice President-Sterling),
 Michael Kacprzicki (Treasurer-Rutland),
 Ronaldo Lu (Holden),
 Patt Popple (Holden),
 Helen Townsend (President-Princeton)
 Mark Koslowske, Operations Manager (Holden)

Wachusett Earthday Inc. (WEI) operates the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center at 131 Raymond Huntington Highway in West Boylston on property owned by the DCR (Department of Conservation & Recreation). The site is partially funded by contributions from the seven towns of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston as well as being supported by the MA Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to the disposal of difficult materials, WEI provides a venue for sharing gently used but still serviceable household items. All work is performed by an energetic and dedicated group of volunteers from both our member towns and several surrounding towns, under the able guidance of one paid staff member and several organizational managers.

The organization's mission is to provide local and environmentally responsible solutions to the disposal of difficult items and hazardous substances and materials.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Wachusett Earthday was forced to make several adjustments to our public hours and methods of receiving both donations and debris. The adjustments in scheduling have proven advantageous and helpful in spreading out the large volume of material with which our volunteers are confronted.

Total collections:	2021 – 118	2022 – 120
Total vehicles served:	2021 – 24,282	2022 – 24,259

Total of materials received in the Reuse Building in FY2022 and kept out of the seven towns' waste streams:

Summary FY22	Collection Days	Total Boxes	Total Pounds	Average boxes/day	Average pounds/day	Average pounds/box	No Good
	120	15,025	232,667	128	1,981	15	9%

Total waste and recycling volumes

Year	2022	2021
Tons	634	685

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTER

634 = 84.24 tons CC, 540.7 N40 and 9.4 tons including textiles, FS home goods and Christmas items to ReStore.

Special Collections: We were only able to host one hazardous waste event this past year due to inclement weather; the three planned shredding events did occur as planned.

Sales of premium donations continue to provide a revenue cushion which allows WEI to maintain relatively level disposal costs.

The partnerships that have been nurtured with multiple local social service and charitable organizations continue to thrive and expand. WEI worked with the Household Goods organization of Acton twice this past year to divert several truckloads of gently used furniture and household goods to their efforts; we continue to work with the Fresh Start Furniture Bank on a weekly basis.

The group of teachers coming from multiple towns within Worcester County continues to expand - they have all been most grateful for what we can offer them.

Public education in the proper disposal and recycling of still-viable goods and materials will continue to drive our mission.

Holiday closings in 2023 will be as follows: January 1, July 4, September 2, and November 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen H. Townsend

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E. - Director of Public Works
Maureen Burke - Office Manager
Kara Rodwell – Senior Clerk

The Holden Department of Public Works (DPW) is comprised of six (6) Divisions: Administration; Engineering; Highway; Equipment Repair; Building & Grounds (B&G), and; Water & Sewer (W&S). The Department is responsible for the planning, design, operations and management of the Town's public works infrastructure and assets and provides professional technical and management expertise to other municipal departments and town officials. Holden's infrastructure includes roads, sidewalks, bridges, guard rail and street signs; storm water, catch basins, culverts and outfalls; cemeteries, parks and playgrounds; town-owned buildings including four (4) historical ones; the closed town landfill; town-wide fleet and equipment maintenance; public water supply including its storage, pumping and distribution; public sewer collection and pumping stations; winter snow & ice operations; and management necessary to provide safe and reliable transportation systems for each of our municipal public safety operations, residents, businesses and visitors.

MISSION STATEMENT & FOCUS

The principal mission and focus of the Holden Department of Public Works is to enhance the quality of life for all residents, businesses and visitors of Holden through responsible and sound management, innovation, teamwork and vision, and to provide dependable, high quality, responsive public works and utility services at reasonable costs.

PERSONNEL

2022 had several personnel changes affect the department. In Engineering, Patrick Wood returned to the Town in late December of 2021 as the Town's Senior Civil Engineer, and Brad Stone joined us in April as the Civil Engineer II. In the fall, in the Buildings & Ground Division, Teddy King was promoted to Equipment Operator II, and John Murray came aboard as a Laborer. Within the Mechanics Division, Robert Schwartz was promoted to Mechanic Foreman, and Eric Bulak was hired as an Associate Mechanic.

OPERATIONS

Two significant events occurred in 2022. For the whole Department, the highlight of 2022 was the occupation of the brand new DPW Facility at 18 Industrial Drive. In October, a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held to commemorate the substantial completion of the facility. Beginning in the middle of November, the various DPW divisions began moving into their new work spaces. By the end of December, all of the DPW was housed under one roof for the first time. The new facility is an incredible building and provides high quality work spaces for the DPW personnel and equipment. We are greatly appreciative of the investment that the Town has made in this building, and wish to thank the DPW Facility Committee and the Town's Owner's Project Manager, Gary Kaczmarek, for their hard work, devotion, and guidance that has led to this wonderful project being completed.

For the Water & Sewer Division, after an eight (8) day jury trial in July and August, the Town of Holden was awarded over \$14.5 million of damages from the City of Worcester for overcharging of sewer transport fees. A jury found that the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation breached

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

its 1999 Transport Agreement with the Town of Holden, but was waived from paying any damages. The jury also found that the City of Worcester had been unjustly enriched from collecting inappropriate sewer transport charges from the Town of Holden, and the Town won the \$14.5 million damage award. As of the close of the year, the Town was waiting to receive final judgment from the judge in charge of the trial, as well as a determination of the interest amount to be added to the damage award. Special Counsel Christopher Petrini and his colleagues at Petrini & Associates PC were instrumental in guiding the Town through over nine (9) years of litigation to arrive at the jury's decision.

Operations wise, the Holden Department of Public Works had a very successful year. The winter of 2021-2022 experienced an average amount of snowfall, with a total of thirty-two (32) snow and ice events. However, there were a number of icing events, rather than heavy snow events, which can be more difficult to deal with.

The Department undertook a number of capital improvements in 2022. The W&S Division began the third year of a three year program to replace the water mains in the "Western States" neighborhood. Work was completed in Oregon Trail and portions of Shrewsbury Street. All of the water mains in the "Western States" neighborhood has now been completed, and the all of the water main in the length of Shrewsbury Street, from Main Street to the West Boylston Town Line, has now been replaced or cleaned and lined. The third year of a three year upgrade of the water system's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system was completed. The B&G Division performed a variety of small building improvement projects. The Highway Division oversaw and/or performed road work and sidewalk replacement in a number of areas. Construction of a number of private subdivisions continued, keeping the Engineering Division busy with extensive review of plans and inspections in the field.

As always, Holden is lucky to have such a talented and hard working group of public works professionals who strive to deliver the highest level of customer service and satisfaction under the most challenging conditions and on a constant basis. I continue to be fortunate and proud to be surrounded by such a talented and dedicated group of public works professionals.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Patrick Wood, P.E. – Senior Civil Engineer
Brad Stone – Civil Engineer II

SEWER PERMITTING

The Department of Public Works (DPW) - Engineering Division continues to provide critical information to the residents about municipal sewer availability, connection procedures and required fees. To ensure proper sewer service installation the Engineering Division provides the inspections of installed sewer laterals prior to the contractor's backfilling the trench. A total of fifty nine (59) new sewer connections were witnessed for 2022. All sewer lateral locations and depths of burial information as well as the permit applications are available in the DPW - Engineering Division office located in the Town Hall.

WATER QUALITY & SUPPLY

The DPW - Engineering Division inspected fifty one (51) new water service connections. New water meters were installed by the DPW - Water & Sewer Division for each of these new services.

STORMWATER

The DPW-Engineering Division continued the management of the Town's compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, as administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The fourth annual report for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, under the MS4 General Permit requirements was submitted to the EPA and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The DPW-Engineering Division continued the Town's representation in the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition (the "CMRSWC"), with John Woodsmall, Patrick Wood and Brad Stone serving on the Steering Committee for the CMRSWC. The CMRSWC provided annual education and assistance of Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance of Parks and Open Space, Building and Facilities and Vehicles and Equipment, as well as Illicit Discharge Elimination and Detection System. Additionally, the DPW-Engineering Division, through the CMRSWC, continued the Town's representation in the Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition which is formed by regional stormwater coalitions across the Commonwealth, in order to facilitate collaboration and promote more effective and efficient management of stormwater. MassDEP awarded the statewide coalition a municipal grant of \$75,354.00 for public education and outreach as part of the MS4 permit. As a result of this effort, the "Think Blue Massachusetts" video "Fowl Water 2019" was translated into Spanish and more educational materials were provided to continue awareness of stormwater and to comply with the public education annual requirements of the MS4 General Permit. This permit year there were 10,655 Facebook/Instagram Impressions and 1,507 Spanish Impressions noted, and 13,922 YouTube English Impressions and 1,507 Spanish Impressions noted. The CMRSWC continues to provide Holden and other member communities educational messages through their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Weekly messages were distributed through social media to target residents, developers, businesses, institutions, commercial and industrial facilities. Topics highlighting ways that businesses and residents could help reduce water pollution included proper disposal of hazardous wastes, preparation for winter conditions, proper car washing, septic system maintenance, yard maintenance, and pet waste disposal; and 6,494 posts were made across the three social media accounts.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Town contracted with Truax Corporation for the third year to clean all catch basins that were more than half full of sediment based on the information gathered from the first two years of cleaning. This year approximately 2,100 catch basins were cleaned. The Town continued its third year with Fuss & O' Neil, Inc. to screen and sample high priority outfalls within Town. Catchment investigation of these outfalls were also completed. Catch basins cleaning, outfall screening and catchment investigations were completed as required through the Town's MS4 permit.

The Town maintains the stormwater information on the Town's website under the Department of Public Works.

The Division updated its Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). A copy of this plan is available in the Town's website.

DEVELOPMENTS

The DPW - Engineering Division routinely assists the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals with the review of site plans; preliminary and definitive subdivision plans; Approval-Not-Required (ANR); and "as-built" plans, and offers professional technical review of hydrology and hydraulic modeling and studies for Site Plan and Definitive Subdivisions applications approval.

The Division is responsible for inspections of all utilities and roadway construction for all subdivisions. The inspections are performed routinely throughout the construction process to ensure proper construction methods are employed and that all utilities are installed in accordance with the approved plans and details. Post-construction inspections are performed by the Division as well as the witnessing of water and sewer main testing to ensure that the systems are free of any deficiencies. The Division also coordinates all work and procedures associated with other DPW Divisions, namely the Highway and Water & Sewer Divisions during proposed street acceptances.

In 2022, the Town accepted Danielle Lane, approximately 560 feet, as a public roadway.

The Division provided design review and/or inspections on a number of subdivisions and ANRs. These developments include the Sunshine Ridge subdivision (located off of Bailey Road), 4-lot development on Salisbury Street, 8-lot development off Elmwood Road, 18-lot development on Fisher Road, and a 5-lot development off Mason Road. The Division provided supplementary inspection services to Greenwood Estates II (located off of Union St and Highland Ave) and Westminster Place (located off Newell Road).

STREET OPENING PERMITS

A total of fifty (50) street entry permits were issued for 2022. These permits include any and all excavation within the public right-of-way for utilities, driveways and new subdivision roadways. Inspections are required before and after the permits are issued to ensure compliance with the street entry requirements.

PROJECTS

The Division oversees and manages contracted services for all post-closure monitoring activities for the Town-owned landfill on River Street. In 2022, the Town continued to conduct additional monitoring and

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

sampling activities at the monitoring wells, and surface water and sediments within the leachate seeps along the Quinapoxet River banks. Quarterly reports were submitted to the MassDEP. In March of 2022, the Town submitted a Corrective Action Design (CAD) to MassDEP to provide further engineering analysis to complete the Corrective Action Alternatives Analysis (CAAA) submitted in 2020.

As part of the quarterly monitoring, a depression was observed along the drainage swale surrounding the landfill cap, causing water to pond. Plans and bid documents were developed to repair the drainage swale. Work to regrade the swale began in October of 2022. The cap and swale were successfully regraded and ponding was eliminated before the end of the year.

The Division maintains the online permitting system for sewer and water connection permits, hydrant rentals, and street entry permit. Public service calls are managed using an online work order system which streamlines the process.

The Division manages and maintains a local master address database and periodically notifies local, state and federal agencies of new addresses.

The Division continued its management of street line painting operations.

The Division applied for and received its second Shared Streets grant of \$106,514.63 from MassDOT for the construction of new sidewalks, curbs and handicap ramps along Shrewsbury Street, from the Town line to Arizona Avenue. This is the last section of Shrewsbury Street which does not have access to sidewalks. The project is located with a one mile radius of the Mountview middle school, in a thickly settled neighborhood and will provide ADA-compliant connections to the existing sidewalk network to the middle school.

The vote to approve the Right of Way (ROW) acquisition funds for the Shrewsbury St. / Doyle Rd. Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) was approved at the October 2022 Town Meeting. Plans were advanced to the 100-percent design stage and preliminary ROW plans were developed. Plans were submitted to MassDOT and public hearing, hosted by MassDOT, to display the plans was held. Design completion for the project is expected in 2023. Construction for utilities could begin as early as Fall 2023, with the majority of the road construction happening 2024-2025. The estimated cost of the project is now over \$12 million and includes pedestrian improvements in the area of Main St (Route 122A) and Shrewsbury St. In particular, this includes the addition of a sidewalk along the jug handle and Bank of America.

The Division continued to work with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB) in the development of the bridge/culvert inventory and long term maintenance plans. Design and permitting for high priority culverts, resulting from this study were continued throughout the year. Advancing preliminary plans or performing the construction of the culverts is expected throughout 2023.

Construction for the drainage network in the area of Holt Rd, William St, Laurelwood Rd, and Boyden Rd, began this year. This work is being performed with MassDOT's drainage repairs in Main St. All the drainage improvements on Holt Rd., William St. and Laurelwood Rd. were completed this year. MassDOT is expected to complete their portion in Main St. in 2023. Following MassDOT's completion of Main St., the Boyden Rd drainage will be performed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Quinapoxet Street culvert repairs are nearly designed and permitted through Conservation Commission, DCR, MassDEP Water Quality Division, and Army Corp of Engineers. The Engineering Division engaged The Engineering Company (TEC) to perform the final design for the culvert, which is expected to be constructed in 2023.

The Town's On Call Architectural and Engineering Services (House Doctor), Socotec, has been performing a number of building related projects, including Adams Road Fire Station feasibility study, Dawson Recreation and Industrial Drive field complex design, Gale Free Library Window restoration feasibility study, repairs to the Recreational Department building, Senior Center HVAC upgrades study, and a Space Needs analysis for the Holden Municipal Light Department (HMLD), Starbard Building and the Town Hall.

The Division provided bidding and administrative services for the annual contracts for road maintenance. In addition to the Town's annual funding received from the State, the Winter Recovery and Assistance Program (WRAP) from MassDOT was also granted to the Town to provide money for more road projects.

Finally, the Division continued its coordinate with the City of Worcester for the multi-year project to replace the Quinapoxet Reservoir Water Transmission Main, located on Whitney Road, Princeton Street, Main Street, and Kendall Road. Construction for the first phase of the project started in spring 2020 and was completed in the late fall of 2021. Design and contracting for the final phase of the project was completed this year and construction is expected to begin in 2023.

PROJECT SUPPORT

As an integral part of the Department of Public Works, the Engineering Division provided support to various levels of municipal Town operations throughout 2022 including drainage repairs and improvements, construction supervision, water main breaks/repairs, and Chapter 90 State-Aid and Town-funded road, sidewalk and drainage construction projects. Project updates can be found in the Town's website under the following link <https://www.holdenma.gov/department-of-public-works/pages/active-department-of-public-works-projects>

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Wood, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
and
John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DIVISION

Christopher DeMoranville - Supervisor of Operations
John Whipple - Highway Working Foreman
Jon Scott - Equipment Operator III
Steven Stewart - Equipment Operator II
Justin Kublbeck - Equipment Operator III
Jason Putnam - Equipment Operator III
Jeffrey Weinheimer – Equipment Operator II
Patrick Mardirosian – Equipment Operator II
Josh Furtado – Equipment Operator II

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The winter of 2021-2022 saw an average amount of snowfall. The winter of 2021-2022 started off quietly with less than 3-inches of snowfall by the end of December. There was a total of thirty-two (32) snow and ice events in the winter of 2021-2022, with a total of 54-inches of snowfall as measured at Worcester airport. With the help of a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, all of the small and mid-size truck's plow blades were upgraded to a segmented style cutting edge. The purpose is to contour to the road surface and scrape more snow, making plowing operations more efficient and allowing for reduced road salt usage.

During the construction season, using a combination of Highway Division managed projects and Contractor managed projects, approximately 0.6-miles of road were re-surfaced, and approximately .1-miles of new sidewalk was added and .1-miles was replaced. The sidewalk work also included the upgrade of all curb cuts to allow for full handicap accessibility in those areas. Improvements to drainage infrastructure was performed for most of these areas prior to the start of road re-surfacing.

Much of this year was spent on drainage repairs and road maintenance activities. Working with the Building and Grounds Division 275 feet of drainage was installed at Davis Hill School field #1. Wyoming drive saw 450+ feet of replacement drain line with new catch basins, manholes and connections. The Highway Division also assisted the engineering services for Shrewsbury St reconstruction and the Industrial Drive Athletic Field designs by digging test holes to verify utility locations and soil conditions.

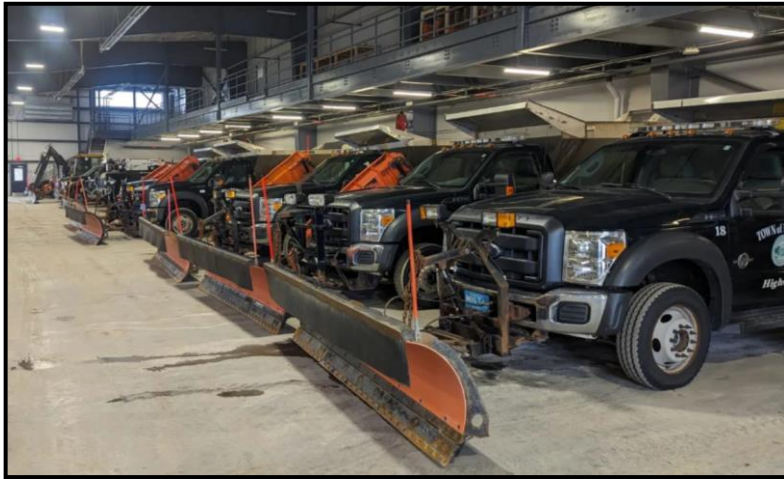
GENERAL OPERATIONS

Snow removal remains a top priority of the Highway Division, in order to provide the safest possible road and sidewalk conditions during the winter months. This task is undertaken by the combined efforts of the DPW - Highway, Equipment Repair, Water & Sewer, and Building & Grounds Divisions. The Town does not contract outside snow plowing or salting services and all work is performed in a very cost-effective and professional manner utilizing dedicated town employees.

To provide reliable, safe and timely snow plowing and salting services - the Highway Division reminds Holden residents not to plow, shovel, or snow blow snow onto the public ways. Depositing snow onto a public way is a violation of a Holden "by-law" and fines may be assessed to violators. To assist our equipment operators during plowing operations and to minimize damages to private property - residents are advised to install snow stakes at the edge of the street to identify walls, fences and/or other related private assets covered by snow. It is also recommended that mailboxes be secured and set back from the

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY DIVISION

roadside to prevent damage from the snow that is displaced during the snow plowing operations. The majority of resident mailbox-related damage customer requests can be avoided if residents make necessary repairs and secure their mailboxes prior to the commencement of the winter season. Similarly, it is the property owner's responsibility to clear snow in front of their mailbox and at the end of their driveways. Property owners are also advised to place snow on the roadside end of their driveways on the downward side of the travel lane of their driveway aprons to reduce large deposits of snow resulting from snow plowing operations.



Members of the Highway Division have many years of experience dealing with winter weather conditions. During snow events it is important to note that when traveling - residents and commuters alike - can assist our snow plow equipment operators and avoid collisions/minimize windshield damages - by keeping a safe distance of at least three hundred (300) feet behind Town-equipment at all times. Our trucks make frequent stops and turns to provide

safe and reliable public roads (and sidewalks) for our residents and businesses. Your patience, courtesy, and stopping to think goes a long way in making winter driving safe for all.

During the construction season, two (2) different streets received new hot mix asphalt, representing approximately 0.6-miles of roadway. A total of approximately 2,500-feet of new berm was installed. The resurfacing projects was completed in a cost-effective and timely manner by utilizing the DPW – Highway Division acting as the General Contractor. The Highway Division also completed many smaller highway-related projects throughout the Town during the construction season and responded to numerous customer-related service requests.

The leaf composting and brush chipping facility was staffed during various times throughout the year by Highway, Equipment Repair, and Building & Grounds Division employees. This service is a very popular operation for the residents of Holden. The materials generated from this program are processed by the DPW and used on soccer fields, baseball fields, and numerous town-wide DPW projects. The Highway Division maintains a small quantity Woodchips available for resident use at no charge. For winter use by residents, the DPW maintains a small quantity of winter sand/salt mix at our DPW Adams Road Facility.

We would like to thank all employees of the DPW – Highway and Buildings & Grounds Divisions that worked on these projects.

Respectively submitted,
Christopher DeMoranville
Superintendent of Operations
and
John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DIVISION

LOCAL ROADS

2022 – HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Sidewalk Maintenance and Construction

Routine "town-wide" sidewalk patching and repair was performed to existing sidewalks. Berm reconstruction was performed along Highland St. New curb along Paxton Road. A new sidewalk was also added at Dawson School.

Service and Dig Safe Requests

The Highway responded to two hundred seventy six (276) service requests.

Drainage

Storm drainage work included the installation, replacement and/or repair of drain manholes, catch basins, and pipes of various sizes on all streets that received new hot mix asphalt overlays. Over 800-feet of drainage pipe was installed and/or replaced.

2022 – PAVING WITH FOUR (2) INCH – HOT MIX ASPHALT

Street	From	To
Wachusett Street	House #56	House #94
Bryant Road	House #305	House #349

In summary, the Highway Division completed a total of 9.68-miles of public road surface improvements, representing approximately 8-percent of the total miles of public roads in Holden.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

General maintenance activities completed during 2022 includes:

- Cleaning and inspecting numerous drainage structures.
- Approximately one hundred and twenty (120) miles of roads were swept, plowed, sanded and/or inspected for defects.
- Twenty (20) miles of sidewalks were swept and plowed.
- Public schools including Dawson, Mayo, Davis Hill, and Mount View Schools were plowed, sanded and swept.
- Each of the public building facilities were plowed, sanded, and swept.
- Numerous street and warning signs were repaired and/or replaced town-wide.
- 3,200-feet of berm repaired or replaced.
- Various manholes and catch basins were repaired or replaced.
- Two Christmas tree chipping days were held in January at Adams Road.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DIVISION

Jeremy Glynn - Working Foreman
James Ringgard – Equipment Operator III
Daniel Deptula - Equipment Operator III
Dillon Barnes - Equipment Operator III
Jacob Annunziata Equipment Operator II (resigned July 2022)
Teddy King – Equipment Operator II (promoted July 2022)
Timothy Granger - Laborer-Grounds
Gary Gauthier - Laborer-Buildings
John Murray – Laborer-Buildings (hired November 2022)

YEAR 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The Building & Grounds (B&G) Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of all Holden municipal properties, including the various cemeteries and all recreation areas. Daily janitorial services are also provided at the Town Hall, Starbard Building, Library and the Senior Center. The daily operations of the physical plant at the Dawson recreation area are included in the Division's duties from May through September. Jeremy Glynn, Jim Ringgard and Dillon Barnes are each licensed Certified Pool Operators. Jeremy Glynn and Timothy Grainger are each licensed as Pesticide Applicators.

The B&G Division continues to improve the Towns Recreational facilities. 2022 saw new basketball hoops installed on the existing basketball court at the Dawson recreation area. B&G partnered with the Highway Division to add drainage to Davis Hill Soccer Field #1 to eliminate a wet corner of the field that impacted the playable area and maintenance activities. With the help of both the Highway and Water & Sewer Divisions a new water line and hose spigots were added at the Community Garden for a more reliable water source.

The B&G Division has a continued focus on maintaining the playing fields this year. After a successful first year the fertilizer program entered its second year. The well pump for the irrigation system at Davis Hill School was replaced. The Mountview School multi-purpose athletic field was aerated and over seeded twice.



A new ice skating rink was purchased by the Town and setup on the Senior Center front lawn. The rink quickly froze with some cold weather at the end of December. A

group of volunteers is planning to maintain the rink through the 2022-2023 winter.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DIVISION

PARKS, RECREATION AREAS & SCHOOL FIELDS

Trout Brook Reservation Lodge received continued daily attention and weekend coverage throughout each of the seasons. The Lodge facility is used regularly for rentals by various church and civic groups and is well received by those who used the facility. Mayo School, Davis Hill School, Mount View School, Dawson School and Recreation Area, and Jefferson Field were primarily maintained by Jacob Annunziata and Teddy King has since taken over. Spring and fall turf maintenance for each of these areas are performed with the assistance from other B&G Division employees. Timothy Grainger maintained each of the other smaller park areas with assistance from Gary Gauthier and Dillon Barnes. This work also included grass mowing at the Town Hall, Starbard Building, Damon House, Hendricks House & Barn and the Senior Center.

Mason Park, Jefferson Park, Kimball Park and Winthrop Oaks Park were well-maintained on a regular basis throughout the growing season and all baseball and soccer fields received necessary field repairs throughout the season. Also, the various mini-parks along Main Street were also maintained throughout the year to provide beautification to Main Street.

In conjunction with our Highway Division personnel, all roadway shoulders and intersections were mowed from May through October using our roadside tractor Boom Flail. The Christmas tree program proved useful and was very well received, with two Saturdays open for drop-off. Numerous smaller projects were completed in Town buildings throughout the year. The combined cooperative efforts of the B&G and Highway Divisions resulted in the cost-savings and timely completion of numerous important behind-the-scenes projects and day-to-day tasks. All told, the B&G Division responded to four hundred eighty five (485) requests for service.

CEMETERIES

Grove Cemetery and Park Avenue Cemetery together with the Historic Cemetery were maintained by Daniel Deptula - an extremely large and busy task - but one that is managed well and which receives many compliments each year for the outstanding level of work performed.

In 2022, thirteen (13) cremation burials and fifteen (15) full burials occurred.

We would like to thank each of the talented, hardworking and dedicated members of the DPW – Buildings & Grounds Division for another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher DeMoranville
Superintendent of Operations

and

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MECHANICS DIVISION

Robert Schwartz – Foreman Mechanic (promoted February 2022)

Adam Roy – Mechanic (promoted October 2022)

Eric Bulak – Associate Mechanic (hired November 2022)

The DPW - Equipment Repair Division maintains all DPW, Municipal Light, Fire, Police and general municipal vehicles, in addition to servicing each of the thirty (30) sewer pumping stations, generators and fuel storage tanks – to assure that all equipment is ready, reliable and safe for day-to-day and emergency-related use. The work completed this year included the complete overhaul of various Town vehicles in addition to providing day-to-day preventative maintenance and/or repairs for over one-hundred and twenty (120) pieces of Town-owned heavy equipment, vehicles and construction-related equipment. We are appreciative of the dedication and hard work performed by our talented equipment repairmen and mechanics.

The activities of the Equipment Repair Division in 2022 included:

- All DPW, Fire, Police, Light Department and general municipal vehicles were serviced and maintained.
- Continued to provide assistance to all Town Departments throughout the year on various projects.
- Monitored and maintained the fuel dispensing system and record-keeping aspects for all Town vehicles.
- Responded to three hundred three (303) requests for service from all Town Departments.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher DeMoranville
Superintendent of Operations

and

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

Isabel McCauley, P.E. - Water & Sewer Superintendent
Kara Rodwell- DPW Senior Clerk
Adam Perkins -Water & Sewer Foreman
Kenneth Dunn - Water & Sewer Operator (WO) III
Justin Pedersen – Water Operator III
Luis Garcia – Water Operator IV
Joseph LaRoche – Water Operator III
Richard Wheeler - Water Operator III
Andrew Bondar - Water Operator II (resigned July 2022)
David Frankian - Water Operator I

HIGHLIGHTS

This year as activities continue to return to pre-pandemic standards, the Water & Sewer (W&S) Division personnel ensured that clean, safe drinking water was available twenty-four hours a day, and that the sewage collection system safely removed sewerage from the Town and sent it for treatment. Precautions were taken when entering customer homes to protect all parties.

Water mains were replaced on Oregon Trail, and a portion of Shrewsbury Street from Arizona Ave to the Town line as phase three of a three phase project to replace water mains in the “Western States” neighborhood and the east end of Shrewsbury Street. This replacement included both the replacement and addition of fire hydrants and new water services from the water main to each house’s water shutoff. This neighborhood has historically been an area where water breaks were frequent and the water main was undersized for fire flow.

A contractor completed a leak detection survey of the entire water system during the summer months. This survey discovered a total of seven (7) leaks, one (1) being a leaking hydrant and six (6) being leaks on water services. Hydrants typically leak when they are not closed properly. The service leaks discovered were a combination of services owned by the Division and owned by homeowners. All leaks were repaired within thirty (30) days of the Division being notified of the leak.

Activities related to the infiltration/inflow (I/I) elimination project were completed at several locations throughout Town. This included work in both manholes and main line sewers to eliminate clean ground water from entering the sewer system. All water in the sewer system has costs associated with transport and treatment, therefore it is important to remove clean water from the system. It is expected that the design of year 4 and 5 will be completed in 2023 with construction plan for 2024.

The second year of a three year phase of SCADA upgrades had been completed. Phases 1 and 2 included the Salisbury St and Brattle St interconnections, Spring St Well, Quinapoxet St Well, Mason Rd Well, Mill St Well, Chapin Tank and Jefferson Tank sites. Phase 3 is planned for 2023 and will include Avery Heights Tank, Highland St Tank and Sycamore St pump station. Upgrades to our SCADA system provides reliability to our water treatment and distribution system.

The W&S Division and the Holden Municipal Light Department entered into contract to replace existing meters with approximately 8,500 solid-state electric meters, 7,300 water meters and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) modules for data collection. This project also includes the integration of the current billing system with a modernized customer portal and meter data management system. The goal of this

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

work is to provide equitable metering, improved customer service, water conservation, and improve metering operations efficiency. The project started in late 2022. The design phase is expected to start in 2023, as well as testing of meter. The replacement of water meter is plan to be performed by the Water & Sewer Division.

For the sixth consecutive year, An American Water Works Association (AWWA) M36 Level 2 Water Audit was conducted using grant monies from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). This audit is the fifth Level II audit, which expands on the Level 1 audit completed in 2017 and subsequent audits completed between 2018 and 2021. This audit is a good yearly benchmark looking into all facets of the water system including pumping data, billed data and financial data. The Division's scores have improved with each audit showing progression towards the best operated and managed system possible.

After over nine (9) years of working through the court system, the Town's litigation against the City of Worcester (the "City") and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) finally went to a jury trial at the end of July. This litigation process has been ongoing since May of 2013. The litigation is in regards to the unfair charges paid by the Town for the transport of sewage through the City, to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District. After an eight (8) day jury trial, the jury found that DCR had breached its 1999 contract with the Town, but was excused from paying damages. The jury also found that the City had been unjustly enriched by excessive sewer payments from the Town. The jury awarded over \$14.6 million in damages to the Town. The judge in the case has upheld the jury verdict and the Town awaits the judge's ruling as to interest. The jury ruling was a great result for the Town, and allows the Town to pay a fair and commiserate rate for the transport of its sewerage through the DCR's and City's sewer systems.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

During 2022 the DPW - Water & Sewer Division personnel continued to diligently operate and maintain the water and sewer systems. Twenty-one (21) water system breaks or leaks were identified and repaired (by the Division or private contractors). A total of thirty-five (35) new water service connection permits were issued, and a total of fifty-two (52) new sewer service connection permits.

The Division responded to a total of seven hundred sixteen (716) requests for service in 2022.

In addition to providing diligent service to the Town of Holden during normal business hours, Water & Sewer Division personnel were essential in providing twenty-four hour a day on-call coverage for emergency calls from both police dispatch and automated water and sewer system alarms. Water & Sewer Division Personnel also provided staffing seven days a week over the course of the year to conduct all required daily activities, including all weekends and holidays.

Many thanks go out to the very dedicated, hardworking and talented DPW – Water & Sewer Division team, whose combined efforts made for a very productive, safe and successful year, delivering excellent service to the residents and rate payers.

Respectively submitted,

Isabel F. McCauley, P.E.
Water & Sewer Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

And

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works

WATER SUPPLY

Holden produced 306.319 million gallons of water (or 61-percent of the total supply) from our four well fields; Holden purchased 197.438 million gallons of water (or 39-percent of the total supply) from the City of Worcester through the Brattle Street and Salisbury Street Interconnections. In 2022, the total quantities of water produced and purchased are as follows:

Wachusett Street Water Treatment Plant

(Includes Quinapoxet Wells and Mill Street Well Field)

Quinapoxet Wells	151.597 million gallons	30%
Mill Street Well Field	<u>99.320 million gallons</u>	<u>20%</u>
	250.917 million gallons	50%

Mason Road Well Field	23.407 million gallons	5%
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Spring Street Well	31.994 million gallons	6%
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Worcester Interconnections

Salisbury Street	56.953 million gallons	11%
Brattle Street	<u>140.485 million gallons</u>	<u>28%</u>
	228.691 million gallons	39%

Total (produced/purchased)	503.757 million gallons	100%
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The Town currently operates four (4) groundwater well fields, four (4) water storage tanks, two (2) interconnections with the City of Worcester, four (4) booster pump stations, four (4) pressure reducing/flow control vaults, and over one hundred and eight (108) miles of water mains of various types, sizes and ages with approximately twenty-five (25) miles of cast iron water mains, forty-five (45) miles of asbestos cement water mains and thirty-five (35) miles of cement lined ductile iron water mains.

The Town's water supply sources include the Spring Street Well which is a gravel-packed well that produces approximately 90,000 to 100,000 gallons per day; the Wachusett Street Water Treatment Facility which is comprised of the Quinapoxet two (2) gravel-packed wells and Mill Street well field that produces approximately 700,000 to 800,000 gallons per day; and lastly, the Mason Road Well which is a tubular well field that produces approximately 70,000 to 90,000 gallons per day. Each of the wells is treated with potassium hydroxide that raises the pH to make water less corrosive and sodium fluoride for dental protection. Holden also purchases and treats water from the City of Worcester to supplement its water supply.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

The Town of Holden maintains thirty (30) sewer-pumping stations, one (1) sewer flow meter, and over seventy-eight (78) miles of sanitary sewer mains. More than half of the Town remains on the municipal sewer system – of which 67% of the sanitary sewer mains are tributary to our sewer-pumping stations, 31% discharge directly into the Rutland-Holden Trunk and Relief Sewer (RHTRS), and 2% discharge into West Boylston, through the Parker Avenue sewer flow meter. The Town of Holden does not treat its own sewage and all sewage flows are transported into Worcester to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (UBWPAD) treatment facility through the RHTRS and the Parker Avenue sewer flow meter.

The Town of Holden's wastewater is transported into the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) – Commonwealth of Massachusetts sewer trunk line through the Rutland-Holden Trunk and Relief Sewer (RHTRS), through the City of Worcester and eventually to the Upper Blackstone treatment facility located in Millbury, Massachusetts. In doing so, the Town of Holden makes annual payments to: DCR for the use of the RHTRS trunk line; the City of Worcester for the use of their sewer main system; and the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District for the final treatment of the Town's wastewater.

Each of these payments makes up the majority of the Town's sewer expense line items in the sewer budget and in turn results in an increase to our customer's sewer bill. In total, these three expenses total \$2.95 million in the FY2022 projected expenditures which accounts for over 36-percent of the projected expenditures in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.

During 2022, the town conveyed approximately 465 million gallons of sewage to the City of Worcester system for ultimate treatment at the UBWPAD treatment facility and a total of fifty two (52) new sewer connections were inspected and approved by the DPW – Engineering Division.

UPPER BLACKSTONE WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT DISTRICT FACILITY

The Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (District) has provided wastewater treatment to its member communities for over 35 years. In 2022 the treatment facility continued to discharge the cleanest water to the Blackstone River in its history. The District continued to serve its members and the greater community by operating cost-effectively to provide advanced treatment for nutrient removal.

The District continues to face the challenge of satisfying more stringent federally mandated regulatory permit limits (some of the most stringent limits in the country). The District's previously contested 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit limits became effective on October 10, 2012. Construction of the Phase A improvements, which total approximately \$120 million, were substantially completed in the late fall of 2019. Work on the design of the Phase B improvements has been completed, and the District continues to await a decision from the United States Environmental Protection Agency as to when the Phase B work should commence.

The mission of the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District remains "to provide environmentally responsible, high quality, cost effective services to its customers in the Worcester area of Central Massachusetts while protecting the water quality and uses of the historic Blackstone River".

Respectfully submitted,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

Isabel McCauley, P.E.
Water & Sewer Superintendent

and

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER AND SEWER ADVISORY BOARD

Paul Hogan – Chair
Joseph Buckley – Vice-Chair
Lawrence Kowalczyk – Secretary
Robert Dempski - Member
Mark Johnson – Member
Joseph Kenney-Member

The role of the Water & Sewer Advisory Board (WSAB) is to report to and advise the Town Manager, via its meetings with the Department of Public Works (DPW) personnel, on all topics relating to water and sewer services provided to the Town of Holden. This Board is a seven member board with currently six members. The WSAB welcomes any interested candidate to join the board. Please contact any of the members for details. The members of this committee bring a wide range of experience and knowledge to the WSAB, with expertise in facility management, chemistry, and water and sewer operations and management. Meetings were held on January 19, March 9, April 6, July 6, September 14, October 26 and December 7.

The meetings held in 2022 primarily focused on updates on existing projects and operations of the Town's water and sewer infrastructure. Some major topics included: the WSAB provided comments on the approach to assess the feasibility of a water treatment plant for Spring St. Well to address the source of discolored drinking water complaints in several portions of the Jefferson neighborhood. At the April meeting, the WSAB reviewed and recommended the new rates presented in the Fiscal Year 2023 Water & Sewer Rates. The WSAB discussed possible amendments to the Water & Sewer rules and regulations regarding the appeal of decisions made by the Superintendent of Sewers.

The WSAB will continue to meet to discuss a variety of aspects of the Water & Sewer Division. Discussions will include reducing infiltration and inflow in the sewer system, annual statistical report and consumer confidence report, understanding water system breaks and leaks, reviewing concerns voiced by Holden Customers with Water & Sewer services, fiscal year budgeting and capital planning. The WSAB will remain active in assisting the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen to ensure the best possible water and sewer services are provided to the Town of Holden at a reasonable cost, while appropriately planning for the future water and sewer requirements of the Town.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

SELECT BOARD/LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Renzoni, Chairman
Richard Bates, Vice Chairman
Stephanie Mulroy, Clerk
Geraldine Herlihy, Member
Thomas Curran, Member

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

Steven Sendrowski, Chairman
Scott Carlson
Peter Elkas
Richard Farrell
Peter Liddy II
Dan Golden

HISTORY

The Holden Municipal Light Department (HMLD) was established by Town Meeting on September 5, 1911 and delivered its first electricity on January 26, 1912. On 1911, \$600 was approved to "install an electric lighting system in the Town Hall, Damon Memorial, two engine houses, the Rice School and the School house in Jefferson." Since then, the Department has expanded to provide reliable and efficient electric power and services to more than 8,200 customers within the Town with annual revenues exceeding \$14.5 million and about 103 million KWH. The Board of Selectmen acts as Light Commissioners and are assisted by the Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board, which is consulted on various Department matters.

LOOKING BACK

HMLD was successful in achieving our three top priorities – (1) worker and public safety, (2) reliable service delivery and (3) reasonable and attractive electric rates.

DELIVERING THE POWER

HMLD's electric distribution system is fed from two of National Grid's 69,000-volt (69 kV) transmission lines. The voltage is then stepped down to the system's primary, operating voltage of 13,800 volts (13.8 kV) at the Department's two substations on Chaffins and Bullard Street. Lastly, the voltage is reduced using a variety of field transformers to levels that support the needs of the residential, commercial and industrial customers.

The Holden Municipal Light Department is a member of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), a public joint action agency that owns and operates two power plants, is a joint owner of several others, manages and brokers its members' bulk power supply and acts as an advocate among regional and federal power authorities.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

The entire New England electric system operates under rules and requirements of ISO New England, a regional transmission organization under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Since ISO New England was established over 20 years ago, the wholesale electricity market has become increasingly complex and, on several occasions, subject to dramatic price volatility.

Withstanding the many changes to the industry, public power has remained a very good value for Holden customers. HMLD is always monitoring opportunities to purchase power through contracts and/or joint ownership arrangements, maintaining a secure, diverse, reasonably priced and carbon-neutral portfolio.

During 2022, HMLD began talks with MMWEC to install battery storage at the Chaffin's Substation. This project being a low risk high reward opportunity for HMLD will provide cost stability and counteracts rising transmission and capacity costs. This will help reduce the need for on-peak energy, which is most often provided by costly and highest emitting resources and helps facilitate more intermittent resources and drive to the future decarbonized grid.

RENEWABLE ENERGY / SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECTS

Since 2010, the Light Department has actively supported local renewable energy projects through an attractive net metering program and membership in the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (CEC). At the end of 2022, there were approximately 100 photovoltaic (PV) systems in place in Holden, the majority consisting of individual residential systems. In addition to the residential systems, there are PV systems in place at the Senior Center, the Light Department, the Recreation Department, and Mountview School. A commercial scale system is in place at the City of Worcester's water treatment plant in the southwest corner of Holden.

MAJOR PROJECTS

In 2022, at the Chaffin's Substation, one of the new transformers was energized and under load. The second transformer is set to be delivered in January 2023. We expect the substation rebuild project to be complete in Spring of 2023.

Along with routine maintenance and additions to the plant, the line crews worked diligently on the Bullard Street/Shrewsbury Street circuit buildout. These additional circuits will provide our customers with better reliability and allow HMLD more flexibility when we need to switch circuits for outages and/or capacity issues.

The Forestry Department has focused extensively on our tree trimming program.

PAYMENTS TO TOWN

HMLD is fully committed to supporting services provided by taxpayer dollars. Each year, the Department reimburses the Town for services rendered from various departments. In 2022, that amounted to more than \$158,620.00 for services rendered by the Treasurer/Collectors Office, Accounting Office, Town Managers Office, Information Technology, Public Works, as well as funding for the Town's CodeRED

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

system. As an active participant in the Town of Holden, HMLD is responsible for the placement of the holiday wreaths and American flags on Main Street.

HMLD also makes a payment in lieu of tax to the Town each year. In 2022 that payment was \$156,782.50.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

In addition to providing high quality, reliable electric service to all its customers, the Department operates several ongoing programs to note:

- Energy Conservation – HMLD continued to offer the Residential Conservation Service Program, a statewide consumer/energy conservation effort. The program provides consumers with free information on home energy conservation, provides a telephone information line for energy conservation questions, conducts home energy audits, and makes referrals to a host of additional energy conservation services available to customers. HMLD also offers a conservation program for commercial customers.
- Appliance and Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs – A variety of programs encourage customers to purchase energy efficient appliances and make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. HMLD participated in a rebate program with Mitsubishi for residential heat pumps where customers may receive an additional \$300 - \$600 rebate directly from Mitsubishi.
- School Outreach – In 2022, HMLD was able to have presentations done at the Holden Christian Academy and Davis Elementary School for Educational Safety and Conservation Programs.
- CodeRED – CodeRED is the Town's emergency notification system that replaced the old Reverse 911 system that was in place for several years. CodeRED is an Internet-based system that notifies residents very quickly via home and cell phone, email and text messaging. It was put in place just prior to Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011 and have been used effectively during power outages, as well as, to advise residents of certain town DPW work activities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During Public Power Week in October, HMLD sponsored our traditional senior luncheon at the Holden Senior Center. The Department staff served a delicious meal with the assistance of the Senior Center staff. A special thank you to those departments that contributed their time and energy and Greg Goodhile for catering the event.

HMLD works closely with our customers who need assistance with paying their electric bills. We provide referrals to residents who may wish to apply for direct assistance through other local or State agencies. In 2022, HMLD, once again, included envelopes in monthly bills to solicit donations to the Town's Help at H.O.M.E./Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund. This fund provides a source of direct assistance administered by the Help at H.O.M.E. Committee and the Holden Council on Aging. Donations help residents in need to pay their utility and other essential bills. Over the years, the response has been overwhelming.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

MUTUAL AID

From September 26th through October 6th, 2022, two linemen, Ben Allen and Randy Dorion, went to Florida to assist in the relief efforts for Hurricane Ian. From December 24th through December 28th, four linemen, Mike Viano, Benjamin Allen, Randy Doiron and Spencer Pollier traveled to NH to assist NH Electric Co-op with relief efforts for Winter Storm Elliot. HMLD is very thankful to the Light Commissioners and the Town Manager that we have the resources to assist other Utilities in these times of needs.

LOOKING AHEAD

The plan for 2023 is to continue to work on several significant capital projects: The completion of the Chaffin Substation (\$6.3 million) and the expansion of the Bullard Street Substation (Construction of 2 additional circuits). In 2023, we will continue a multi-year program to replace the current meters with AMI meters. This will further improve the efficiency and strength of our electric system.

DEDICATED STAFF AT HOLDEN LIGHT

HMLD is extremely fortunate to have very experienced and capable operations and office personnel.

On July 29th, 2022, Rick Grensavitch retired as HMLD's custodian. Rick worked for HMLD for 20 plus years. Everyone at HMLD was sad to see Rick retire but thankful for the dedication and years of service at HMLD.

In January 2022, HMLD hired Christopher Monsini as the Assistant General Manager and Callie Knowler as the Accounting Manager. Both came to us with experience in municipal government and made an immediate positive impact to HMLD.

In the early months of 2022, all three of our Forestry Department personnel were hired. James Evers as the Forestry Foreman/Tree Warden, Keith Schleyer as the Senior Forestry Specialist and Padraic Ferriter as the Forestry Specialist. Both James and Keith came to us from the Town of Lexington and are certified arborists, Padraic is new to the forestry industry and we are excited that he chose Holden to begin his career.

Our helpful and knowledgeable staff in the office, led by Teresa Montoya, continues to serve you. The office personnel handle a wide-range of duties and responsibilities, not the least of which is the development, processing, and mailing of more than 90,000 utility bills each year and the maintenance of all customer accounts. The staff manages and maintains water, sewer and trash service billings in addition to electric service. Thanks to our entire office staff for their hard work and team spirit.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION

Barry Tupper –General Manager
Chris Monsini – Assistant General Manager
Teresa Montoya - Business Office Manager
Callie Kowner – Accounting Manager

OFFICE STAFF

Paula Howell - Principal Customer Service Representative
Kim Brunell - Customer Service Representative/General
Rob Gorton - Customer Service Representative/Collections
Marlene Whipple - Customer Service Representative/General
Rick Grensavitch - Custodian (retired July 2022)
Gregory Goodhile – Custodian

LINE PERSONNEL

Mike Viano – Sr. Working Foreman
Joe Hand - Working Foreman
Mike Andrade - Working Foreman
Derek Peto – Substation/Utility Foreman
Ben Allen - First Class Lineman
Jon Harris - First Class Lineman
Randy Doiron - Second Class Lineman
Spencer Pollier - Second Class Lineman
Anthony Rossi – 3rd Class Lineman
James Evers - Forestry Foreman
Keith Schleyer - Senior Forestry Specialist
Padraic Ferriter - Forestry Apprentice



HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Holden Municipal Light Department is to provide reliable and cost effective energy services in a responsible and courteous manner, which meets the current and future needs of our customers.

In support of the mission, the Department is committed to the following:

1. **Customers.** The Department will continually strive to remain customer-focused and always seek to improve the way in which we deliver services to our customers.
2. **Employees.** The Department will maintain a safe and positive work environment and provide the opportunity for professional and personal development. Employees will be properly trained for their responsibilities and regularly updated in current developments in their disciplines. The Department strives to ensure that employees interact in a courteous, professional manner with their fellow employees, other Town staff, and the community.
3. **Power Supply.** The Department has developed and will maintain a secure, diverse, reasonably priced and carbon-neutral portfolio.
4. **Rates.** The Department will deliver energy and associated services at competitive rates that are fair to all customers and based on a reliable delivery system and sound financial management.
5. **Physical Plant.** The Department will engineer, construct and maintain an electrical distribution system and related facilities and equipment, which will meet current and future customer needs and requirements. The latest technology and methods will be explored and evaluated to achieve this objective.
6. **Environment.** The Department will meet or exceed applicable environmental regulations, keeping customers informed of the progress and costs involved.
7. **Efficiency.** Education programs will provide information to customers in energy efficiency and the wise use of energy.
8. **Community Service.** The Department will participate in community outreach and education programs to promote good public relations and serve customers.

HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATION

Angela T. Greene, Acting Recreation Director
Kate Youngstrom – PM Program Coordinator
Erin McKinley – AM Program Coordinator

This year the Recreation Department is focusing on rebuilding and expanding by bringing back previous programs and adding new offerings as well. Adults and families have responded positively to the active and passive leisure – time activities by participating in classes like basketball, and Charcuterie classes. Children’s classes such as, babysitter’s training, home alone safety and vacation programs have also been very well received.

We continue to operate the Before and After School Programs for children in the 3 elementary schools, and the All Day Program held at Dawson School during the summers. We are licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care for 52 children each morning and afternoon and are at full capacity at two of the three schools. These Programs are very well received by our working parents as children can be dropped off at 7:30 for the Before School Programs and stay until 6:00 for the After School Programs. During the summer, children in the All Day Program can be dropped off at 7:30 and stay until 5:30 and enjoy many different activities, including swimming lessons. A new addition to the All Day Program was having days where special guests would visit the program and do activities with the children. Some of the



HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATION

guests included Town Manager Peter Lukes, the DPW, Holden Police Department, Holden Fire Department, Varsity sports teams from Wachusett Regional High School, Wachu Makin', and the Worcester Railers.



During the summer months the Holden Pool area becomes the focus of numerous classes, and programs, such as swim lessons, half day programs, arts and crafts, tennis and basketball activities. We offered 10 different swim levels, from Parent and Child water adjustment classes to the emergency water safety classes and brought back the swim team for the first time since 2019. Having the pool as the focal point for summer activities clearly defines the goal of recreation. It is a great place to spend the day with your family and meet friends that are new and old. With the addition of Food Truck Fridays this year it became even more desirable for families to unwind after a long work week.



HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION

This past fall we put together the Halloween in Holden event with the EDC. This was the biggest year so far with over 60 businesses participating. Musical entertainment was provided by the Wachusett jazz band, Chad Clements and voice contestant Ryleigh Modig. The weather was beautiful and hundreds of people came out to participate.



For the annual tree lighting we collaborated with the EDC and were able to make it a weekend long event. The weekend started on Friday night with Restaurant and business specials, trolley transportation and a town wide luminara. Saturday included visits with Santa, the tree lighting, food trucks, craft vendors, entertainment, and Trolley transportation. Sunday finished out the weekend with a Parade of Presents and the light display at Wachusett High School. It was a success and we are already working on planning next year's event.



HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION



HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATION

The goal of the Recreation Department is to provide the vehicle necessary to engage children and adults into life-long activities that help promote good health. We strive to help an individual reach his or her full potential by offering a variety of programs and classes that help build on the physical, emotional and social benefits that are necessary for every individual. Give us a call and register for one of our classes – you'll be glad you did! The benefits of Recreation are endless....

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Greene
Acting Recreation Director

SEASONAL AND PART TIME STAFF

HEAD LIFEGUARDS

Tucker Hanlon
Zoe Rice
Hayden Brenner
Mackenzie Akbarieh

WSI/LIFEGUARDS

Tucker Hanlon
Hayden Brenner
Mackenzie Akbarieh
Susie Austin
Paige Bishop
Jamie Brenner
Parker Diaz
Annika Gunnard
Alex Hajos
Amanda Hoffer
Tyler Nason
Peter Scanlon
Ethan Servant

GAMES GALORE

Grace Campbell

TENNIS

Gabriella DeLeon
William DeNorscia
Xin Zheng

LIFEGUARDS

Jim Brehany
Olivia Bull
Paul Keane
Hailey Larose
Shawn Mentzer
Ainsley Napolitano
Anastasia Novikova
Nyah Santana
Ava Soderman
Lucas Walter

BASKETBALL

Brenda French
Finn Lyons

CRAFTS

Alexandra Connell

PASS CHECKERS

John Bolles
Nora Hanlon
Caroline Schaper
Maddisen Scott

SNACK BAR

Caleb Amour
Tyler Kemble

HALF DAY PROGRAM

Caleb Amour
Althea Bediako
Amy Correia
Kaitlyn Correia
Amy Grogan
Tyler Kemble
Arianna Kneeland
Kayla Marks
Morgan McClintock
Gracem Mita
Anushri Mohan
Maddisen Scott
Audrey Wieczorek

ALL DAY PROGRAM

Lexie Atkins
Bekka White
Samantha Johnson
Joey Nunn
Abby Paschal
Mattea Sielaff
Julia Terlizzi
Sydney Zeena

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF

Caleb Amour	Althea Bediako
Nicole Berger	Beverly Berthel
Paige Bishop	Dana Blevins
Nancy Corrigan	Amy Correia
Lisa Deciero	Allison Dolat
Aaron Femia	Meredith Fontaine
Brenda French	Christine Grieco
Nora Hanlon	Ava Jaslowich
Lily Jerome	Macey Johnson
Anila Jorgji	Brandon Kang
Tyler Kemble	Ari Kneeland
Madison McCarthy	Morgan McClintock
Anushri Mohan	Lauren Ramos
Anna St. Germain	Nancy Sposato
Muriel Ventres	Katherine Vogel
Keira Weldon	Anabella White

NEW CLASSES AND INSTRUCTORS

Charcuterie Class	Classic Charcuterie & Co.
Tech Kids	W.P.I Ambassadors

ONGOING CLASSES & INSTRUCTORS

Men's Basketball	Mark Haynes
Babysitter's Training	Juanita Kingsley



Dawson School – Photo by Jamie Galvin

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR CENTER

Stephanie King – Assistant Town Manager
Louise Charbonneau – Director, Senior Services (retired July 2022)
Karen Phillips – Director Senior Services
Maureen Buffone – Senior Clerk (retired July 2022)
Kerry Reitz – Senior Clerk
Mary Sloan – Transportation Coordinator
Clare Nelson – Activities Coordinator, Part-Time
Paula Earley – Outreach Worker, Part-Time
Dale Hayden – Outreach Worker, Part-Time
John Bianco – Van Driver, Part-Time
Katherine LePain – Van Driver, Part-Time
Ellie Johnson – Van Driver, Part-Time
Nancy Melton – Van Driver, Part-Time

The mission of the Holden Council on Aging is to assist seniors and their families by providing services and activities that will enable them to stay independent and living in their own homes for as long as possible.

This year brought big changes to the Senior Center with the retirement of both the long-time Director, Louise Charbonneau and the Senior Clerk, Maureen Buffone. Louise had been an integral part of the Senior Center for many years. She worked her way from the Senior Clerk position to the Director. Louise dedicated her time and energy to the Senior Center, along with her cooking skills. Maureen was the face of the center, sitting at the front desk and greeting those that came in. Their absences are felt and recognized. Thank you both for your commitment and devotion to the center and to the seniors who attend.

For elders, quality of life is often related to the quality and continuity of relationships. The Senior Center provides a welcoming destination that accepts you regardless of financial status, race, creed, medical condition, or mobility. Seniors are able to meet like-minded individuals in a safe environment. They can meet old friends or foster new friendships. In addition to the social impact, the Senior Center is a resource center. This is the only social service agency in town where seniors can find nutritional, physical, and educational activities created to assist a diverse demand of elderly needs and interests while attempting to foster independence and community interaction. The Senior Center strives to be welcoming and friendly to all.

There are 5266 people 60 or over in town. This means about 1 out of every 4 residents is over 60. The population projections for Holden is that those under 20 will decrease, while those over 60 are going to increase. Holden is aging. We need to make sure we have a solid Senior Center with access to outreach, transportation, nutrition, and programs in order to keep those staying at home as healthy and engaged as possible. Only about 4% of the population end up in nursing homes. The rest stay home. We need to work to keep them active and connected to services.

The Senior Center offers exercise options every day of the week. Tai Chi, Balance Class, Low-Impact Exercise, Chair Yoga, and Spring Chicken fitness classes are well attended. The exercise room has 2 treadmills and a recumbent bike for all to use. Staying physically active is important during all phases of life. We strive to help seniors keep moving. The Senior Center also offers a variety of activities to keep

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR CENTER

people active and engaged. We regularly offer card games, adult coloring, painting, two book clubs, a writing group, knitting and needlework, photography group, bingo, and Mah Jongg. The billiards room is available for pool playing. The Senior Center also offers a weekly blood pressure clinic and monthly foot clinic to keep everyone healthy. A SHINE counselor answers health insurance questions, free legal consultations are available, and the AARP helps with taxes. The various activities are all advertised monthly in our newsletter, Among Friends.

The Senior Center runs two vans to assist seniors with getting to appointments. One van mostly remains in Holden. The other van, from the WRTA, brings people to Worcester and other surrounding towns. The Transportation Coordinator and the drivers work very hard to schedule as many appointments as possible. You will see the vans running Monday – Friday. A carport was put up in order to protect the vans and to keep the snow off the roofs for safety.

With help from Elder Services of Worcester Area, the Senior Center is able to distribute Meals on Wheels and provide a congregate meal site. Food insecurity is an issue in the aging community. This program makes food available to a section of the community in need.

The Senior Center is the place to contact when looking for medical equipment. We accept donations of equipment that are in good, usable shape. There is no cost to borrow any equipment from us. The Senior Center has a mailbox outside the building to collect old eyeglasses for the Lions Club. There is a bin inside the entryway to collect used sharps. We also have an outside bin to collect old flags for disposal.

The Outreach Workers are here to help seniors maintain their independence. Applications for fuel assistance, food stamps, Help at HOME, housing, etc., can be cumbersome and difficult to navigate. They assist with all of this while making sure seniors are aware of all of the possible options available.

The Friends of the Holden Council on Aging are the fundraising arm of the Senior Center. They raise money to help augment the Senior Center's budget. They have a cart with various items for sale. They also run the popular Morning Glory Café on Friday mornings. The Friends are responsible for getting the newsletter mailed every month. They help fund programming, run day trips, and help support the community gardens.

When the Center is not being used for senior events, other groups are able to use the space. An application process is in place in order to do so. The building is very busy most evenings and often on the weekends as well.

The Senior Center is lucky to have developed many partnerships with various groups to help us provide fun and educational programs. The Cultural Council and the Women's Club help sponsor various programs throughout the year. Student volunteers from WRHS teach seniors how to use cell phones. The Wachusett Food Pantry and the Wachusett Area Rotary Club assist with nutritional assistance for seniors. HMLD sponsors and holds a great lunch for Power Week. Walgreen's Pharmacy provides flu shots. Oriol Healthcare facilitates a monthly Caregiver's Group as well as regular health fairs. Worcester Community Action Council assists with fuel assistance applications. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the Worcester County DA's office provide much needed educational materials for the seniors. Mayo School administration and the 3rd Grade teachers are indispensable for running the Intergenerational Pen Pal Program. Miles Funeral Home donates flowers to be distributed to seniors. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides financial and educational support. MCOA gives us education and training to help staff.

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR CENTER

We are always grateful for the ongoing support from the HPD, HFD, The Gale Free Library, HCTV, and all of the town offices. We are also blessed to have the help from the DPW for all of their assistance, especially the Building and Grounds Crew, who set up and break down tables and chairs for our programs, as well as maintain the building inside and out.

The COA Board and the Senior Center Staff would like to thank the town and the community for their continued support of the Senior Center.

HUMAN SERVICES

VETERANS' SERVICES

Bradford Sherblom – Veterans' Service Officer



The Veterans Services Department is under the direction of Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Local veteran service officers direct the veterans' benefits program, which is a joint program with the Commonwealth and the Town of Holden to deliver financial benefits for qualified veterans and/or their dependents. The office also assists and advises veterans and/or their dependents with questions and applications concerning their federal and other state benefits. This office is also a participant in the Central Massachusetts Veteran's Coalition, which provides a wide range of resources from veteran organizations.

During this past year the budget for the Veterans Service Department has remained consistent with the budget the year before. Veterans with limited income are encouraged, if qualified, to file for a permanent income from the Veterans' Administration (www.va.gov) or Social Security. For those seeking employment, veterans are encouraged to contact the Veterans Representative at the local Workforce Development Office, 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Worcester. Veterans wishing to file for health care benefits can also do so at the VA Medical Facility, located at 605 Lincoln Street, Worcester. We hope to assist some veterans, their families or widows of veterans with their monthly expenses on a needs basis. Any veterans benefits expended through the town are reimbursed by the state at a rate of 75%.

CULTURE

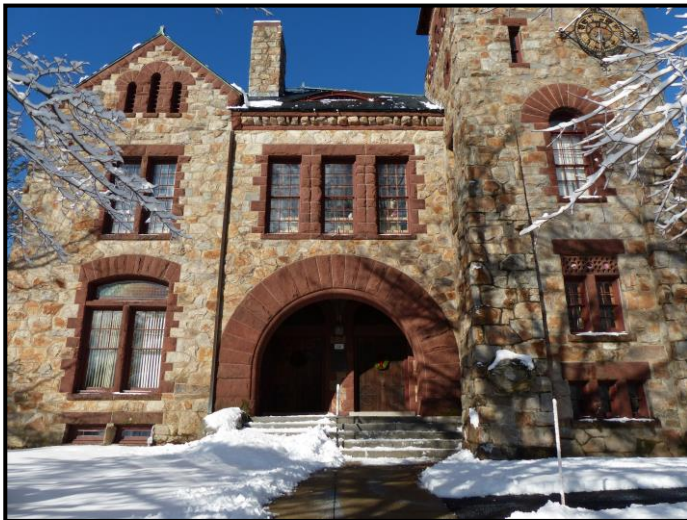
GALE FREE LIBRARY

Susan Scott - Director
Jennifer Rhoades - Assistant Director/Head of Reference
Kevin McDonough – Head Children’s Librarian
Veronica BeJune - Head of Collection Management
Rachel Mimms - Head of Circulation
Kathleen Brown Rachel Burton
Nancy Chalk Nancy Clayborne
Stephanie Collins Judith Giles
Abigail Johnson Spencer Perry
Nancy Richards Wendy Snow
Magda Szemiot Amy Vessella
Danielle Yanco

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Maurer, Chair
Alan Degutis
Russell Dye
Penelope Morgan
Virginia Powell-Frasier
Richard Sheils

Gale Free Library has continually evolved and expanded its services and the delivery of those services to the public.



The library offers a variety of methods for patron contact, depending upon what is most convenient and comfortable for them. In addition to in-person services, communication can be accessed via email, text, chat, and Zoom. Whether patrons are accessing resources in-house, or remotely, staff is always available to help. The library’s inter-library loan service, within the Commonwealth, and across the United States, is very popular and well-used.

Public computer workstations and Wi-Fi are available; patrons can access the Internet, use online databases, and print and scan documents. Staff offers on-site assistance with computers, as well as specialized classes on a variety of topics to encourage digital literacy. In addition the newly added mobile printing, allows patrons to send print jobs to the library from either mobile devices, or a home computer.

The Local History Department continues to be busy, offering access to, and answering questions about, historical records related to Holden and Gale Free history, as well as genealogy. There are a number of genealogical databases that patrons can access from the library and remotely. Local History also offers a

CULTURE

GALE FREE LIBRARY

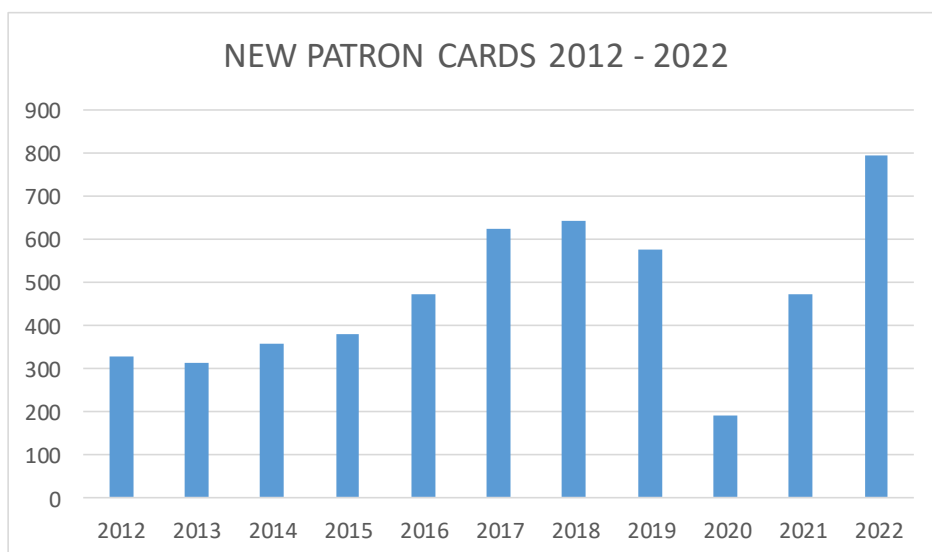
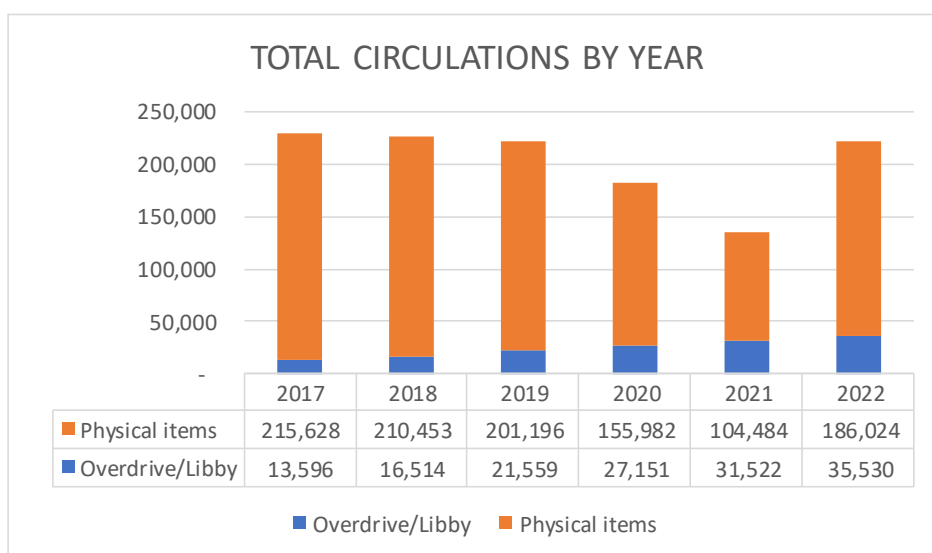
microfilm machine capable of scanning and printing digitized materials, including articles from newspapers dating back to 1892.

The Summer Reading Program for children includes concerts, scavenger hunts, story-times and other events.

Regular Story-times are weekly for both babies/toddlers and preschoolers, averaging 50-60 kids every week for these are popular programs.

The Witches Cottage program for children with potion-making, witchy crafts and story-times, is a continuing success, a whole week of activities are offered. The week kicks off with the town wide Halloween trick or treating event.

Circulation of materials annually was 221,554 new patron card in 2022 was the library's highest total ever at 796 (includes 117 e-cards).



CULTURE

GALE FREE LIBRARY

Gale Free Library still belongs to the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing network, known as CW/MARS. This network allows library users access to hundreds of Massachusetts Libraries materials. These materials can be reserved from any computer or device with Internet access and a library card.

The Board of Trustees is elected officials who serve on the governing board of the library. They support the annual budget request, address the needs of the library and keep policy current. Their meetings are on the third Thursday of the month.

The library is successful due to the dedication of many people; the library wishes to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for continued support of the library's services and forward looking vision for Holden. The library also would like to recognize Town Manager Peter Lukes and Assistant Town Manager Stephanie King for their support of GFL. The Director, staff and trustees would also like to highlight the dedicated work of The Friends of Gale Free Library for their fundraising efforts and the Buildings and Ground crew who assist in tasks around the building.

Thank you to all who contribute to the betterment of our library and our community.



Gale Free Library – Photo by Erica Jacobson

CULTURE

HOLDEN COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Jay Brunetta – Public Access Director
Evan Schakenback – Production Assistant
Seth Porter – Public Access Assistant



Video productions continued onsite locations and also continued with ZOOM and Google meetings. HCTV was able to take the challenges and meet the demands to provide uninterrupted ZOOM, Google meetings and live in person Board of Selectmen and Wachusett School Committee meetings for our community. At the Holden Senior Center we taped a wide variety of programming, from Elvis Live from Holden, Faroe Islands with Ron Rosenstock, Native American Flute & Storytelling, The Resource Profile FY 2024, Shrewsbury Street Improvement informational meeting, Wachusett Superintend Interviews Wachusett School Committee Candidates forum, and The Good Neighbor Awards. These shows were broadcasted live on Holden Public Access channels and on-demand at holdentv.com. We continued to provide the series "Elder Law, which provides elder law knowledge. We taped the Annual Town meeting and Special Town meeting and provided a virtual viewing area for Holden residents so they could see and hear the meeting in person. We taped the Memorial Day Remembrance on Town Common, Summer Bandstand Concerts, Santa's arrival at Town Hall and the return of Holden Days. We continued making technical upgrades with increased focused on providing



meetings and video productions done virtually. Holden Community Television is thankful to our committed volunteers who have contributed to the continued success of our public access facility. Our locally produced, original programs can be viewed on our website at www.holdentv.com. Volunteers are always needed to help with all HCTV productions. If you or someone you know would like to receive free training in video or television production, you can contact HCTV at 508-829-6185.

CULTURE

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Charles Skillings, Chair
Ida Nystrom

The chief goals of the Commission this year were for historic preservation and historical education.

BUILDING INVENTORIES

Members of the Commission continue to work to update the historic building surveys (B Forms). Commission members are trying to create a detailed list of each owner of every historic building in Holden. The computerization of the inventory forms is on-going. This work has been progressing, but the work has been done remotely, and at home by the individual members. All of the forms now have consistent maps as well as a current image of the property.

HENDRICKS HOUSE

Schools have returned to in-school learning, but they did not participate in any field trips.



The Holden Historical Society has had volunteers staff the house on Saturday morning.

There are two areas of concern that may need some carpentry repair. The siding on the bay window, on the east side of the building, is still in-need of repair. There also is a board that has started to work itself loose from the roof on the west side of the building. It is hoped that DPW will be able to evaluate the situation.

HOLDEN HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

With only two members, most of our work on the B Forms is done at home, as there is no internet access at Hendricks House.

Submitted by,
Charles Skillings, Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Holden Historic District Commission (HHDC) presides over the structures, grounds, and monuments within our town's two designated districts, Holden Center and Boyden Road. We review applications for maintenance and changes seen from the public way. Three types of applications are available; a Certificate of Appropriateness, Non-Applicability, and Hardship. One of these certificates must be obtained prior to proceeding with any repairs, maintenance, structural changes, signage changes or installation, or landscaping changes within the districts. The specific boundaries of the districts and our procedures are found within the Town of Holden's website. Literature is also available at the Town Hall, the Gale Free Library and on the Town website.

Current members of the HHDC are:

Michael Smith	Chair
Lance Lazar	Vice-Chair
Sarah Uhlendorf Stebulis	Secretary
Lenny Smith	
3 VACANT BOARD POSITIONS	
2 VACANT ALTERNATE POSITIONS	

We currently have 3 vacant Commission positions, and 2 vacant Alternate positions. The commission has actively sought new members through postings on the town Facebook page, as well as through our annual walking tour of our district. Unfortunately we remain with the same amount of vacancies as in 2021 and welcome the Board of Selectmen to appoint new members as they see fit to fill our commission.

The Commission held 4 meetings in 2022, which were a combination of in person and virtually via Zoom or Google Meet. The HHDC received two application for Certificate of Appropriateness this past year. One was for the construction of an addition at 25 Boyden Road and the second was for signage at 4 Boyden Road. Both certificates were granted.

This year the Commission tried something different, opening our annual walking tour of the district to the public. Historically the commission does this together once a year to take note of any changes and keep current on the status of the district. This year, Chuck Skillings, Chair of the Holden Historical Commission, was kind enough to donate his time to join us and lead the walking tour of our district, including interesting historical information for the participants. Michael Smith also took the time to let participants know of our commission vacancies and that we would love to have any interested parties join us. The tour was advertised on the town website and social media pages and we had a great turnout of over 28 people. We plan to make this an annual event.

The members of the Holden Historic District Commission invite the public to attend our scheduled meetings and welcome your ideas and comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Uhlendorf Stebulis
Secretary
Holden Historic District Commission

COMMITTEE REPORTS

250th PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Marilynn Foley, Chairman
Roy Fraser III

HISTORY

The Bandstand is a permanent gift to the Town of Holden in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary celebrated in 1991. A committee was formed to decide on a permanent gift to the Town using funds left over from the celebration. With \$14,000.00 the Committee voted to construct a Bandstand in the center of Town. The Committee was adamant that the project be completed without the use of town funds. In 1992 the Bandstand and Memorial Park were created and ground was broken for construction. Many volunteer hours, talent and materials were donated for the construction of the Bandstand. Much of the wood used was milled at a local sawmill from trees grown in Holden. The original trees, roses and benches were donated in memory of a loved one. Plaques with the donors' names and the names of those who volunteered so much time on the creation of this gift are located inside the Bandstand. Since the summer of 1992 Sunday concerts have been held featuring a wide variety of music. No tax dollars have been used for the construction, the upkeep of the bandstand and 31 years of Sunday concerts.

The Committee starts planning in late fall and early winter. The concerts are sponsored by Holden businesses, businesses from the surrounding towns and the Holden Cultural Council. We also receive donations from local businesses. We pass the "bucket" at each concert for voluntary donations for the upkeep of the Bandstand. The Committee also raises money from Light-A-Light at Christmas for those who wish to light a light on the Bandstand tree in memory or honor of loved ones. The donation list is published on the town website by early January.

The concerts are enjoyed by many. (This year a sudden squall interrupted Elvis during his third song. The audience stayed as it kept on raining. Although some of the equipment was damaged we moved inside the Senior Center with standing room only and Elvis continued his performance just using his cell phone for background music until about 10.00 P.M.) Roy and I also thank Emma Riffelmacher who left the Committee this year, but still writes our grant for the Holden Cultural Council and others who have volunteered.

The Eric Johansen family has continued the tradition Eric started helping to decorate the Bandstand and set up the Christmas tree, which has been donated for many years by Bill "the tree man" Howatt. The Bandstand and Memorial Park was the center of many activities for the Holiday in Holden weekend including an ice rink set up in the center of the Park.

The concerts are promoted on the sign at the Bandstand, the electric sign at the corner of Main and Shrewsbury Streets, the Town website, programs mailed in the electric bill, on Facebook, by the bands themselves and announced at each concert. Concerts are held in the Senior Center in case of inclement weather.

The Committee is thankful for the continued support from Holden businesses, the Town and our wonderful audiences.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

250th PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

SPONSORS BUSINESS DONORS

Cornerstone Bank	Ellie's Pet Barn
Gibbs Realty, Inc.	Miles Funeral Directors
Holden Cultural Council	Oriol Health Care
Mulroy Family Dental	Steve's Pizza, West Boylston
Pepsi Cola	Sunnyside Ford
Perrone Landscaping	Village Repair
Webster First Federal Credit Union	Wong Dynasty & Yankee Grill, Inc.

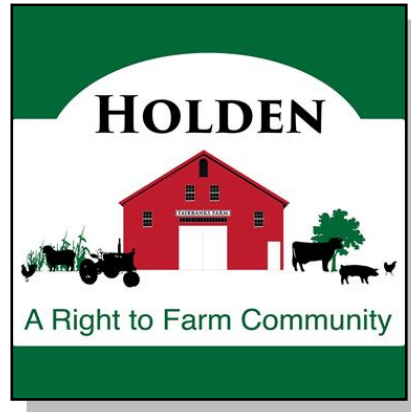


Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. 1130 Main Street

June 26	Reminisants Entertainment for all Ages	Holden Cultural Council
July 10	Beatles for Sale Live Beatles Tribute	Perrone Landscaping Mulroy Family Dental
July 17	New England Swing Orchestra Dance Music Thru the Years	Holden Cultural Council
July 24	Illusions Popular Music	Pepsi Cola Holden Cultural Council
July 31	Slo Grass American Bluegrass	Holden Cultural Council
August 7	Elvis Las Vegas Show	Holden Cultural Council
August 14	Holdin' Back Band Oldies, R&B, Sing Alongs	Cornerstone Bank
August 21	Rick Barron & The Quavers Country Oldies & Rock and Roll	Gibbs Realty Webster 1 st Federal Cr. Union
August 28	Dan Clark, The Singing Trooper Patriotic, Irish Songs and More	Holden Cultural Council

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION



James Dunn – Chairman
Chris Hugo – Vice Chairman
Thomas O'Shea -- Secretary
Ryan MacKay
Maleah Gustafson
Nancy Rocheleau
Wendy Somerset

2022 was another challenging year for Holden's Agricultural Commission, the state, country and world. Early in the year, the Ag Comm continued to meet mostly virtually, with a transition to in-person meetings later in the year. Despite relief from most COVID-19 restrictions, our historic progress was still less than desired this year. However, we still produced some good work.

We continue to promote local farming in Holden and act as a resource for farm related education and economic development for our populous. Agriculture in a bedroom community also means backyard ventures that produce for the dinner table, the farmers market, and as a hobby that serves to preserve hygienic, ecological, communal, and efficient techniques that maintain the roots of production for future generations. We provide expert advice on agricultural related topics to the Town Manager, Select Board, and other departments. We are also a voice for open space that adds value in livability and brings pride and attractiveness for those within and outside our borders.

2021 marked the 13th year of operation for the Holden Agricultural Commission. Last year's update of our Mission Statement provided useful guidance for this year's efforts. The Mission Statement repeated below and is published on the Ag Comm's WWW page: (<https://www.holdenma.gov/agricultural-commission>).

Support and promote agriculture and the preservation of open space in Holden

To meet this mission, the Agricultural Commission will:

- 1. Advise Town and other local organizations on agricultural and open space activities and projects, including open space acquisitions and other transactions, master planning, bylaws, events, and programs*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

- 2. Serve as a liaison between Town officials and residents on agricultural and open space matters*
- 3. Promote the business of farm-related activities and traditions*
- 4. Engage the community in educational programs and events which deepen people's awareness, appreciation, and involvement in local agriculture and open space*
- 5. Provide informational resources to assist local farmers and residents*

Although no formal seminars were scheduled, we did attempt to increase our educational outreach via social media. We more regularly updated our Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/HoldenAgComm/>) with information of agriculture/consumer interest and have begun to monitor Facebook and Holden WWW site traffic numbers to try and learn what is valuable to our audiences. Generally, our social media traffic is increasing and feedback is positive. Maleah Gustafson leads these efforts.

Late in 2019, Holden completed an update of the Town's Master Plan. Prominent in the resident's desires for Holden's future was conservation of open space and preservation of the 'character' of Holden as it is today, including agriculture. One product of the Master Plan is a collection of tasks, which, if accomplished, will serve these goals. The Commission has continued work on several achievable tasks for the near future and is looking for ways to complete the really long terms tasks as well.

Tom O'Shea, a state-certified forester, helped the Town Conservation Agent complete an update of the Town's Forest Management Plan.

Jim Dunn was assigned to the committee charged with updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The OSRP Plan update was completed after extensive interaction with Town residents via surveys and an outdoor, in-person feedback event at Trout Brook. The plan was presented to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen and was forwarded to the State for review in late 2021. After several iterations with State-mandated changes, the plan was approved in mid-2022.

Filling the vacant Commission member position was still a challenge. Late in 2022, Wendy Somerset joined the Commission. Wendy has a farm background from her youth in New York State, and currently raises beef and poultry on her farm in Jefferson and Rutland. Welcome Wendy!

The Ag Comm sub-committee, created in 2019, charged with evaluating and rank ordering all the Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B properties in Holden, completed their work in 2020. A presentation summarizing the work and results was finalized and presented to the Board of Selectmen in January 2021, and to the Conservation Commission later in the year. It was presented to the White Oak Land Conservation Society Directors as well. The background documentation created as this work progressed should provide a valuable resource for land conservation efforts in the future and has been archived with the Town Conservation Agent. In 2022, the Commission began an effort to institutionalize periodic updates to this priority listing. The latest list of enrolled Chapter 61 properties was received from the Assessor and compared to the list used for the original prioritization. The changes were noted and the on-line presentation of enrollments updated on the Town's Graphic Information System (GIS). A formal update to the original presentation and database is underway. Also, during the 2021 presentations of the original project, the Commission got feedback that a GIS overlay of Holden properties which have recorded

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Conservation Restrictions (CR) would be a useful tool for planning property prioritization. The Commission is working with the DPW, who manages the GIS database, to create such an overlay from state recorded data.

An on-going responsibility of the Ag Comm is to coordinate the Town's review of properties proposed for removal from Chapter 61 status in order that officials can determine whether to exercise the Town's first-right-of-refusal on the proposed sale of these properties. This year, one property was proposed for sale and conversion. The sale was a part of a complex effort by the Town, White Oak, the property owners, and their neighbors to preserve a large undeveloped parcel off Salisbury Street. The effort was successful, with a lot of creativity invested by all parties and use of funding from the Open Space Preservation Fund, sponsored by the Ag Comm several years ago. Over 100 acres have been preserved for perpetuity.

Late in the year, a Holden farmer came to the Commission for support to begin some tourism-related activities on her farm. These activities, called agri-tourism, are now formally acknowledged in state law. The Commission researched the applicable laws and reviewed the operating plan for the activities and was pleased to send a formal letter of support for the proposal to the Town Manager and the Planning and Development Office. The proposal was approved and activities scheduled to begin in July 2023. We believe this will improve the long-term viability of a long established Holden Farm.

We have continued to support the Holden Farmer's Market by coordinating support from Town officials and in scheduling display (monthly) of a banner hung over Main Street. We hope this has helped the Market vendors flourish and for their products to continue to be a resource for the populace.

2022 was a bit slower than a 'normal' year, but we still moved forward. We are proud of our accomplishments and expect the next years will bring more.

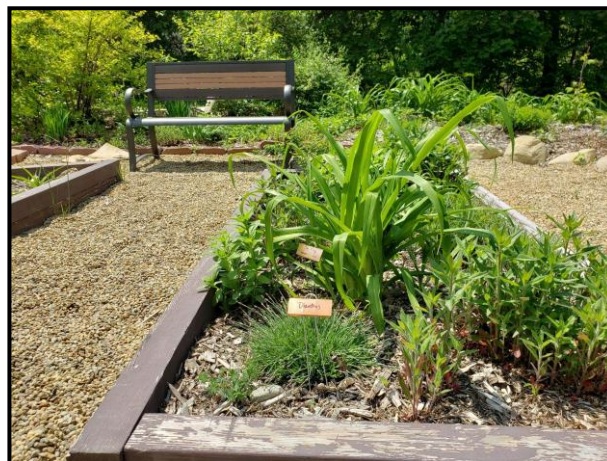
COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Jessica Cosenza, Chair
Kayte Brier
Wayne Dodge
Aleel Grennan
Michael Mazloff
Julie McCarthy
Gina Tutela

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." - Audrey Hepburn

The Holden Community Garden Committee works year round to promote and develop the garden space at 175 Highland Street, as well as to provide support to gardening programs throughout the community. In May, we held an opening day event that allowed participants to come together in the garden to prepare the plots and to clean up the pollinator friendly public garden space. The Committee welcomed Wayne Dodge as a new member. Wayne has been a strong advocate of the community garden, and a constant participant at all the meetings and public events. Michael Mazloff also held an event at the Checkerberry Village Adult Housing facility to educate residents on the ease and joy of starting a container garden at home.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

In June of 2022, The Holden Community Garden was thrilled to host the Holden Girl Scouts Bridging Ceremony. Hundreds of Holden residents and relatives of the girl scouts came together to celebrate their accomplishments, and to mark their progress towards new adventures and achievements. Anthony Renzoni from the Board of Selectmen was present at the ceremony, along with Senators Anne Gobi and Harriet Chandler. The Holden Garden Committee Members volunteered and worked tirelessly to prepare the space in order to make the area as welcoming as possible for the community to enjoy this great celebration. The space will now be used annually for this great community event.

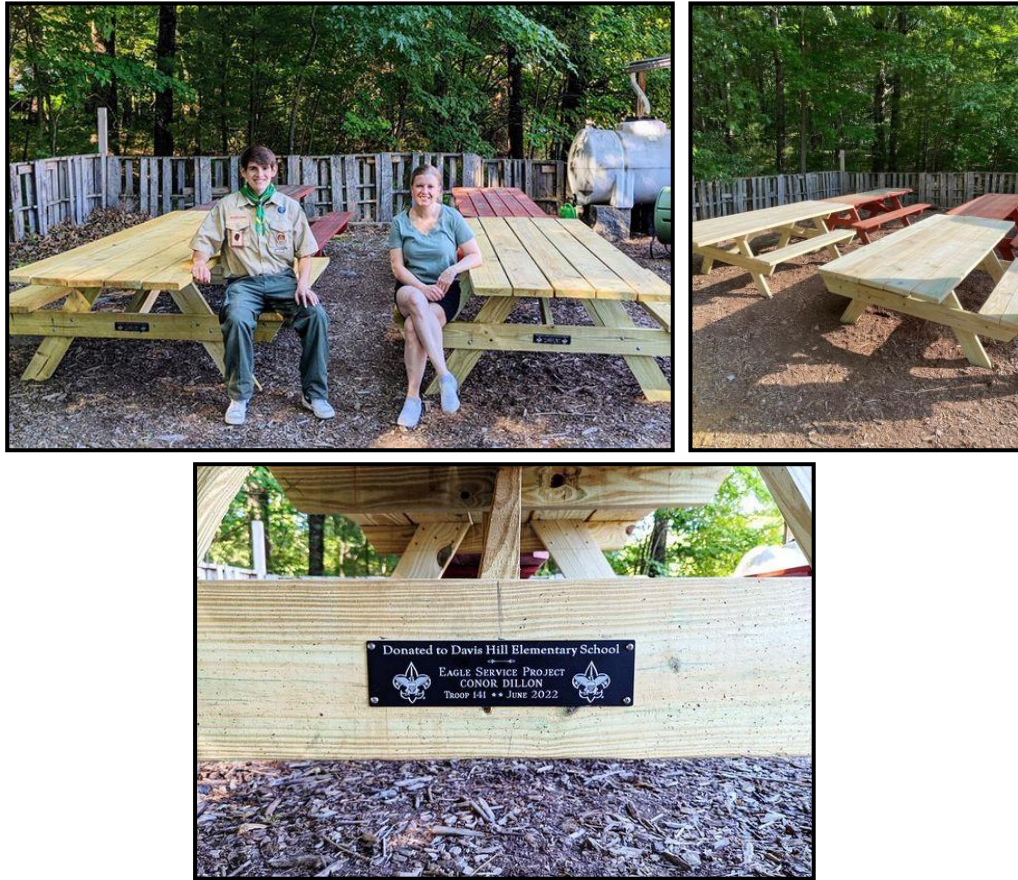


June was also a time for other scouts to become involved at the community garden. Eagle Scout Conor Dillon volunteered to complete his Eagle Scout Project at the Davis Hill Community Garden. He built and installed 2 additional picnic style tables for students and teachers to come together in their garden space. Additionally, Girl Scout Troop Number 11706 volunteered to complete their Silver Award project by creating a walking path through the wooded area between the garden plots and the Davis Hill property. Troop leader Julie Currier, and scouts Connie Currier, Ellie Curran, Lila Myers, and Kaylee Scanlon worked

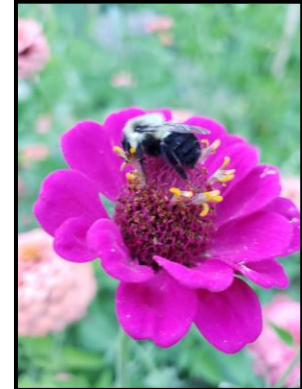
COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

throughout the summer with other volunteers to complete this project which now offers residents a quiet shaded area to visit and appreciate the hidden treasures of nature tucked into this back pocket of the garden property. Committee member Julie McCarthy continues to coordinate the scout projects onsite, as she has done for many years while also maintaining the pollinator garden areas.



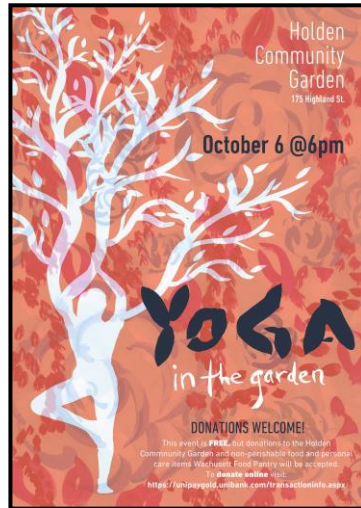
While the gardens were becoming bountiful in July, the Holden Community Garden Committee celebrated the installation of a permanent sign marking the front of the property on Highland Street. The Holden Community Garden Committee would like to thank member Katye Brier for her work in creating and designing the sign, as well as the Holden DPW administration and public workers who helped to coordinate and install the sign on site.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

While August and September typically mark the harvest and end to the garden season, our committee members kept busy with planning community events. Committee Member Gina Tutela continued to collect for the Wachusett Food Pantry, donating dozens of fresh tomatoes and other produce as well as household personal items to those in need. In October, Committee Member Aleel Grennan coordinated a "Yoga In The Garden" night for the community. The event was a beautiful way to promote the use of the space while enjoying the garden's energy and serenity of the space. We hope to share more of these yoga events in the future.



Our October Clean Up event not only allowed our members to come together to mark the end of a successful season, it also was a day to work together to plan for the future. Our goal in 2023 is to expand the garden to 23 ground plots, as well as allow for additional standing garden tables to serve those with limited mobility. The Committee was able to start prepping the site for those additional plots, and later in the month we wrote a grant proposal to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for funding that would promote "Gardening For All". Committee Chair Jessica Cosenza is pleased to promote the continued success of the garden and all of the community projects being offered at the site. We would also like to thank the DPW for their cooperation in establishing a water source onsite, by allowing us to connect to the old water service left from the former Recreation building, and installing two yard hydrant spigots. This more reliable source will supplement the rain catching water cisterns, allowing for drought conditions to be weathered easier and for planned expansion of the garden.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE



The Holden Community Garden Committee is a volunteer organization working to provide and support Holden residents, individually and collectively, to grow food, flowers, fruits, and herbs on town land including the redeveloped property on Highland Street. Our efforts will enable residents to enjoy the beauty of our town while developing a sense of community through cooperative action, learning about sustainable and environmentally conscious gardening as well as ethical harvesting.



The Holden Community Garden Committee also exists to foster the education of the children of Holden through the support of community gardens in local schools and community groups. These gardens will help to develop the appreciation of future generations for the importance of agriculture and responsible environmental practices, and provide education and positive experiences through gardening and physical activity.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE



Daniel Nason, Chairman
James Kempton-Vice, Chairman
Dawn Michanowicz, Secretary
Mark Johnson - Member
John Cross, Jr. - Member
Christopher Lucchesi - Member
Scott Sundin - Member
Gary Kaczmarek – Owner’s Project manager

In 2015, Town Manager Jacquelyn Kelly created and appointed the Department of Public Works (DPW) Facility Committee (the “Committee”). The Committee was established to select a site and develop a plan to build a municipal DPW Facility in the Town of Holden. The DPW Facility Committee worked closely with consultants, and other officials to develop a plan that will accommodate the long-term garaging, office, and other physical plant needs of the DPW.

Geraldine Herlihy and David White were designated the non-voting Liaisons from the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, respectively. John Woodsmall, Director of Public Works, serves as ex-officio Committee member without a vote. Maureen Burke, Senior Clerk provides administrative support to the Committee.

With support of the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen, a Special Town Meeting and Special Town Election were held (December 3rd and 4th respectively) to vote on the project and the funding of said project. Subsequent to these approvals, the DPW Facility Committee commenced work on the contract documents that were required when publically bidding the project. Working closely with the Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) and the design/engineering team, the Committee worked diligently with the Public Works staff to ensure the needs of the department and the Town were met while keeping the project within scope.

2019 brought some uncertainty relative to the project budget. A healthy economy and a strong job market have increased construction costs higher than expected. The project accounted for normal escalation amounts to cover inflation throughout the project timeline. These above-normal increases in the construction industry were also illustrated in the two separate construction cost estimates performed. Given that the estimates were approximately 14% higher than expected, the Committee investigated multiple major cost-savings measures including reductions in the building footprint, diminishing the administration offices, deleting the fuel island or the salt storage facility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE

While 2020 was a year fraught with contempt and unrest, it did provide a fiscally beneficial canvas at the time this project went out to bid. Upon completion of the final drawings and specification, the project was publicly bid and bids were opened on August 19, 2020. Low bidder for the contract was awarded to M. O'Connor Contracting, Inc., 19 Ledge Hill Road, Boston, MA 02132. The base bid plus the four (4) alternates were within the budget established for the project. As the town experienced the season's first snowfall, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the 18 Industrial Drive site on Friday, October 30, 2020.

Construction progressed well through 2021 and 2022 even though sourcing and supply chain issues were experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Material supply delays were observed with structural and non-structural steel, paint, and drain structures. While these various supply chain delays caused the project timeline to extend from the original completion date of February 2022, the project continued to move forward through all the pandemic-related challenges.

The Town celebrated a ribbon cutting attended by citizens, employees, elected officials and committee members, with tours of this state-of-the-art facility on October 1, 2022. November 18, 2022 marked substantial completion for the project and the Public Works Team moved into the facility through the remainder of the month, fully occupying the facility by December 1, 2022. This successful project provides a facility that will serve the Town of Holden for decades to come.

The DPW Facility Committee thanks the residents and Town Officials for their continued support and investment in its employees and its critical infrastructure.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Nason, Chairman



COMMITTEE REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Wow! What a terrific event "Holidays in Holden" was. The Economic Development Committee working with the Holden Recreation Department is hard at work preparing for the 2023 event.

The committee, in preparing for the 2022 event, took the idea of a one day tree lighting and expanded it to a 3 day winter festival. This included Santa's visit, the tree lighting, many activities for the children, food trucks and much more. Going forward to the 2023 event we are planning on adding to the activities to make the event even more exciting. The trolley circulating through town proved to be very popular and, if possible, we are looking forward to adding another one.

We couldn't have had such a successful event without the financial help from our numerous business sponsors as well as the help from many community organizations. These included the Holden Department of Public Works, Holden Lighting and Forestry and the Holden Fire Department. Also helping with great enthusiasm were the First Baptist Church, the First Congregational Church and the Holden Senior Center. Also, for help with entertaining during the tree lighting we appreciated the support of Holden Girl Scouts, Boy Scout Troop 180 and Holden Christian Academy.

We look forward to an even more successful event this year, 2023.

The Holden Economic Development Committee
Kathy Merk, Chair



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

<u>Member</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Paul L. Challenger, Chair	07/08/1998
Chris Lucchesi, Vice Chair	02/26/2017
Marilynn L. Foley, Clerk	03/05/2000
Stephanie Adams	08/15/2019
Al Berg	07/01/2021
Joseph Dolak (resigned June 2022)	12/08/2010
Donald Graves	11/19/2017
Jane Titcomb	08/28/2019
Donna Wallace	07/01/2022
David J. White	10/21/2013

BACKGROUND

The Finance Committee (FinCom) is a volunteer committee mandated by the Holden By-Laws and appointed by the Town Moderator to conduct thorough reviews of municipal financial plans on behalf of the community. The FinCom is responsible for considering matters related to the appropriation, borrowing and expenditure of money and other matters and may make recommendations to the Town Meeting or to any Town board, official or committee relative to such matters.

The main responsibility of the FinCom is to review the Town's fiscal year operating (including education) and capital budgets during the planning process to ensure the effective expenditure of Town funds. This is accomplished through an extended review process beginning in February and lasting until the Annual Town Meeting. The process starts with receiving the Town Manager's proposed budget for the municipal budget before February 15 each year, and the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) budget in March.

The municipal budget comprises about 40% of total spending, and includes police, fire, ambulance, public works, general government, the library and senior center and other Town controlled responsibilities. The Finance Committee can make changes to these budgets as it deems necessary. The education budget comprises about 60% of total spending and includes the WRSD and the Montachusett Regional School District. These budgets are set by the respective school committees and the FinCom can only recommend that Town Meeting approve or not approve them. These budgets cannot be changed locally.

Beginning in February, the FinCom holds public budget hearings with the Town Manager and each of the municipal department heads, and also the Wachusett Regional and Montachusett Regional Superintendents. During these hearings the FinCom reviews the last few fiscal years' results, hear the department head's plans and challenges for the coming year, and perform a detailed review of each department's proposed budget. We ask about new personnel requested, expectations for health insurance and other expense trends, capital equipment needs, new regulations or mandates that need to be complied with, turnover of key personnel, status of employee union contracts and other important topics that help us understand the proposed budget. We review documentation provided and request additional information as needed. The cumulative effect of all the departmental budgets on the Town's property tax rate is analyzed and decisions are made on what the Town can afford to do and what requested items need to be eliminated, modified or deferred until a later year. When we feel it is appropriate, we make changes to the proposed budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the Annual Town Meeting, the FinCom makes recommendations on each article with a financial impact and explains why it took that position. Knowing that the FinCom has carefully reviewed each article and explained its implications gives voters confidence in voting on the article. Historically, Town Meeting accepts the FinCom's recommendations more than 95% of the time. The Committee appreciates the confidence that Town Meeting has shown in its recommendations.

By State law (Prop 2 ½), in addition to the increased revenue from property taxes on newly constructed or improved properties, each year's tax levy (the amount raised from property taxes) can increase by no than 2½% from that of the previous year without the approval of voters at a special ballot election (override or debt exclusion). This serves to cap the amount of revenue available, which in turn restricts how large a budget can be approved, since budgeted expenditures cannot legally exceed forecasted revenues.

FY 2023 TAX RATE

The Town's tax rate has two distinct components. The operating budget of the Town, including education expenses, is set under the limits of Prop 2 1/2, which limits the amount taxes can be increased each year. The other portion of the tax rate pays for special projects or items purchased outside of the limits of Prop 2 ½, which can be temporary (debt exclusions) or permanent (overrides). Debt exclusions are individually approved by voters in order to accomplish a specific goal, such as building a school or buying a fire truck. Most of Holden's existing debt exclusions are for the High School renovation, the Mountview Middle School project and the Public Safety building, but there are various smaller exclusions as well. In FY21 the Town began making payments on the new Department of Public Works (DPW) headquarters on Industrial Way. The Town has not passed an override since 1992.

In 2022, the FinCom reviewed and made recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2023 Town Budget. For the 11th consecutive year, the approved budget raised property taxes by less than allowed under Prop 2 ½. Holden currently has the ability to raise about \$1.1M in additional taxes each year from property taxes under this state law, which provides the Town with financial flexibility, and helps sustain its high credit rating of AA+ from Standard and Poors. Maintaining that credit rating is important in allowing the Town to get the best possible terms on borrowings, which allowed the Town to receive favorable rates on the debt recently issued to pay for the construction of new fields at the Dawson recreation area.

This budget, combining both tax rate components, decreased the tax rate from \$16.56 per thousand of assessed value to \$14.99, a decrease of 9.5%. However, combined with a 14.8% increase in the average assessed value of properties, the taxes on the average house increased 3.9%, or \$251. The taxes on the average house (valued at \$442,480) will be \$6,633 during FY23.

FY 2023 BUDGET REVIEW - REVENUE

This year's budget review cycle was, once again, an unusual process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FinCom held all its departmental hearings remotely. In April, the FinCom began meeting in person again to conduct the discussions and budget setting process, and in person meetings continued in the fall.

This budget was built on expected municipal revenues (not including debt exclusions) of \$55.1M, up \$1.9M, or 3.6%, from FY22. The largest portion of this increase was that property tax revenues under the levy went up by \$1.3M. The Tax levy provides 80% of the General Fund revenues available each year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

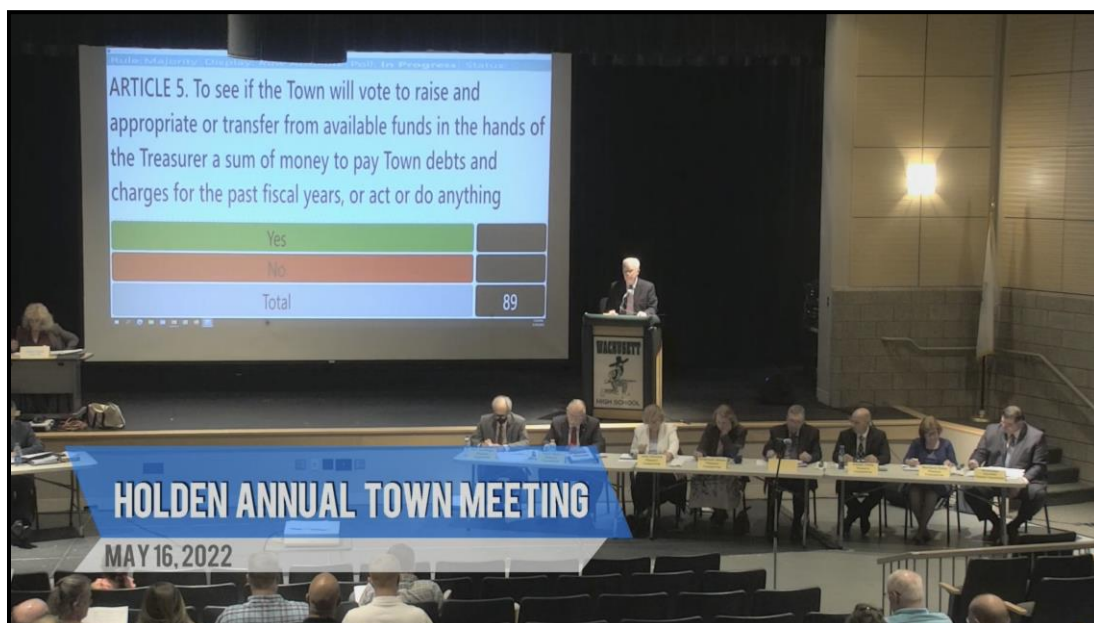
FINANCE COMMITTEE

While state aid was even with the prior year, local receipts were up about \$0.2M as the economy began to rebound. The usage of free cash, which is the total of money raised in prior years, but not spent, increased \$0.4M as the FinCom worked to keep taxes down as much as possible.

In October 2015, the Final Report of the Foundation Budget Review Commission was submitted to the state legislature, where it was approved and implemented. The Report called for lowering educational support to wealthy communities over time and focusing new funding dollars on poorer cities. This resulted in the state starting to push more of the cost of education onto communities like Holden. Since then, the Town's financial situation has deteriorated significantly. In 2015, when the Report was enacted, the Wachusett budget represented 51.1% of the Town's total operating budget. It has since climbed each year, reaching 61.7% this year. This trend is expected to continue until the state changes its funding formula again. In 2015, the Town had \$2.2M in additional available tax levy. (This is the difference between the legal maximum tax that can be levied and the amount of property taxes actually levied in a given year. This is the amount that taxes can be raised without an approved override or debt exclusion vote.) With the FY23 budget, excess levy capacity is down to \$1.1M, indicating that roughly half of its flexibility has been eliminated. With no indication that this will end soon, this is a very worrisome trend.

This trend cannot continue without either adversely impacting the ability of the Town to provide the municipal services Holden residents expect, or requiring a tax override. Fortunately, no override was needed this year, but the year is coming when one will be required, unless the state begins funding education more fully for communities like Holden.

It is important to note that the WRSD does not have any input into how much state funding it receives, so these negative changes are not the fault of the WRSD. However, the WRSD has not been able, or willing, to limit its expense budget in response to these changes, and has passed them through to the Town. As noted above, this cannot continue indefinitely.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Average annual increase over 5-year period
General Government	6,240,364	6,314,976	6,789,732	7,175,861	7,461,972	3.9%
Public Safety	5,472,541	5,803,958	5,871,773	6,202,997	6,561,074	4.0%
Public Works	2,890,526	3,018,697	3,210,404	3,339,810	3,556,571	4.6%
Culture/Human Services	1,250,118	1,284,674	1,318,032	1,318,810	1,364,378	1.8%
Capital	1,100,540	951,000	1,127,208	708,000	1,245,500	2.6%
Other Expenditures	1,975,811	1,730,289	1,664,077	1,369,158	877,394	-11.1%
Municipal Operating Budget	18,929,900	19,103,594	19,981,226	20,114,636	21,066,889	2.3%
% of Tax Supported Budget	40.50%	39.20%	38.80%	37.9%	38.3%	
WRSD	26,531,318	28,231,505	29,679,534	30,058,819	30,058,819	4.0%
WRSD Transportation	2,004,018	2,204,518	2,290,978	2,652,422	2,652,422	6.5%
Montachusett & Vocational	835,988	901,029	984,226	1,279,080	1,279,080	10.6%
Education Op. Budget	27,861,068	29,636,865	31,506,709	33,990,321	33,990,321	4.4%
% of Tax Supported Budget	59.50%	60.80%	61.20%	61.7%	61.7%	
Total Operating Budget	46,790,968	48,740,459	51,487,935	55,057,210	55,057,210	3.5%

In preparing the municipal budget (which is the entire Town budget, except for education expenses, over which the FinCom has no control), both the Town Manager and the Finance Committee took into consideration a wide range of factors including the potential tax rate, maintenance of core municipal services, the ability to sustain the budget in future years, and "quality of life" issues such as good streets and snow removal, nice parks and playing fields and cultural enrichment, such as the library and senior center. The FinCom was very aware of the impact of the pandemic on the financial lives of Holden residents, and crafted as lean a municipal budget as possible, while meeting those goals.

The FinCom took significant and unusual steps to limit the tax increase this year, in addition to our normal scrutiny of every line item in the budget. Contributions to three savings accounts were suspended this year for the first time in over a decade and contributions to funding OPEB obligations and general stabilization were cut below FinCom policy levels. Additionally, revenue estimates were made more aggressively and free cash was used, both of which expose the Town to some level of increased risk. These changes reduced required taxes by \$1.6M, and the average tax bill by \$223.

The largest portion of the budget is funding for the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD), which represents 61.7% of the operating budget. The WRSD proposed a budget of \$109.1M, which was 4.3% higher than last year. The budget increased primarily due to contractually obligated pay increases, significant increases in the cost of benefits, primarily health care, and a rapid increase in transportation costs. However, due to a significant increase in state aid received, driven by higher student counts as students who left for alternative educational options during the pandemic returned to the WRSD, Holden's assessment increased only 2.5%.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Montachusett Regional School District (Monty Tech) consistently delivers budgets at virtually the state required minimum spending level, due in great part to more generous funding of vocational schools by the State. Even so, FY23 saw an increase of \$0.4M, 25.1%, in the Monty Tech assessment, driven largely by an increase from 88 to 107 students (21.6%) from Holden attending the school.

Over the most recent 5-year period, the average increase in the WRSD assessment has been 4.2%, while Montachusett has increased 10.6%. Over the same period, the municipal operating budget has increased an average of 2.3%, which is below the rate of inflation. Since the Town's ability to raise taxes is limited by Proposition 2 ½, increases like these in education put great stress on the municipal budget.

Most of the municipal budget goes for employee costs, which increase each year with pay increases and rapidly rising health care and pension costs. In the latest 5-year period, the only new full-time municipal positions added have been eleven new Public Safety employees, consisting of three new Regional Dispatch Center employees (who are shared with neighboring communities), six new firefighters (substantially paid for by a federal grant) and two police officers. Four part-time positions were converted into full-time. Given the changes in the Town's population, miles of road to maintain, increasing complexity and other growth factors, this is a remarkable record.

The largest increase in the municipal budget this year was a significant rise in the capital budget of \$0.5M, (75.9%) returning to a more normal level after being kept very intentionally low for several years as the Town weathered the worst of the pandemic. In addition to the routine road work, police cruisers replacement and DPW vehicles and equipment replacements that are typical, only two significant projects were undertaken. One was to focus on taking down dangerous trees along public roads and the other was making upgrades to the landfill grading to minimize runoff from the site. Other than replacing the old DPW building with a new one, Holden has still not made significant progress on necessary work to the Town's buildings, including schools that was highlighted in the FY2019 building assessment. Although the time never seems right, in the near future the Town will have to begin the continuous upgrades, replacements and expansions required for its buildings in order to avoid having them fall into disrepair.

Post-retirement health insurance is guaranteed to municipal employees in all communities and school districts in Massachusetts. Funding this future liability is an ongoing budgetary quagmire for most towns and school districts. Holden is responsible for the future health insurance coverage for all municipal employees and for those employees of the WRSD who were hired before the regionalization of the K-8 schools in 1994. The WRSD is responsible for the health insurance of employees that it has hired directly.

Holden was one of the first communities to begin setting aside funds to meet this obligation in the future, and currently has \$6.8M invested, reflecting about 40% of the total obligation. The FY23 budget calls for contributing an additional \$0.3M from taxes, as well as additional amounts from the Light Department and Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund. The contribution from taxes is about ½ of the amount required under FinCom objectives, but reducing the contribution was a deliberate decision made to reduce taxes this year.

In 2018, as part of the collective bargaining process, a 1% contribution of wages from all employees hired after January 1, 2019 was negotiated. This policy was then extended to cover non-union employees as well. The funds invested and the employee contribution will have a very positive impact on the Town's bond rating as the rating agencies see the Town addressing this serious issue in a responsible way.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Town has also been contributing less to the Stabilization fund, the Town's overall rainy-day savings account, and other long-term planning accounts. In FY19 \$1.2M was contributed to these accounts, while FY23 saw only \$0.4M put away for future use. This may impact the ability to respond to future negative financial situations without unduly impacting taxpayers. The FinCom has set a goal of having 15% of the operating budget saved, and while this level is being approached, it has not been achieved.

At the Annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval of 28 articles, and the Town Meeting approved each one.

On October 17, 2022, there was a Special Town Meeting to address three warrant articles. The FinCom began meeting with Town Officials early in the fall to discuss, understand and refine the proposals. Ultimately, the FinCom recommended passage of each of the three, all of which were approved by the voters.

The article that provoked the most discussion was the Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, which proposed to put a roundabout at the Shrewsbury Street and Doyle Road intersection, add sidewalks and widen Shrewsbury Street, improve handicap access and make other improvements to Shrewsbury Street between Main Street and Doyle Road. The Doyle Road intersection has long had significant traffic backups and accidents. The FinCom recommended approving the article based on the need for improvements and the relatively minimal cost (the state is paying all construction costs).

The second article sought approval to borrow \$5.0M to construct athletic fields and recreation areas between the new DPW facility at 18 Industrial Drive and the Dawson Recreation Area, tying these two locations together with a hiking trail. The 2018 Master Plan for Holden had identified the urgent need for new fields and recreation space. This project helped to fulfill those goals at a reasonable cost, so the FinCom recommended approval.

The final article was to improve the playground area at the HMLD Chaffin Street site to become an all-inclusive playground and recreation area. Another need identified in the Master Plan was to have recreation opportunities for all residents. This project helped to fulfill that goal at a reasonable cost, so the FinCom recommended approval.

Additionally, between Labor Day and the beginning of the fiscal year 2024 budget cycle on February 15, 2023, the FinCom met 10 times to discuss improvements to the budget process, the documentation we receive in support of the budget and to gain more in-depth knowledge of certain topics that come up occasionally. These discussions deepened the members understanding of the budget, and, with the help of the Town Manager and his staff, streamlined and improved future budget cycles.

I would like to thank all the volunteer members of the FinCom for the many hours put into reviewing the financial operations of the Town and helping to ensure that tax dollars are spent as efficiently as possible. They provide a great service to the Town and deserve to be recognized for their contributions. We look forward to continue to provide advice which will be viewed as objective, reasoned and independent by the voters.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Challenger
Finance Committee, Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOLDEN INCLUSIVE PARK COMMITTEE



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Stephanie Klink, Chair
Kathryn Andrus
Robyn Floyd
Michelle Grewal,
Jennifer Renzoni

Leadership Support
Angela Greene, Recreation Director
Alicia Jasiekiewicz, WRHS Civics Educator
Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

2022 SUMMARY

The Holden Inclusive Park Committee was formed in May 2022 and met twice monthly since. In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, we had a booth at Holden Days and passed out treats at Halloween in Holden. We presented at the Board of Selectmen meeting in July, met with the Town Manager in September and presented at the Q&A for the Dawson Recreation project in October. The Landmark covered the committee's work in a front-page story in September. We were also available to answer questions from residents before the Special Town Meeting in October and spoke briefly for the budget line item for the initial funding, which was unanimously approved.



We created a Facebook page and sought community feedback through posts, as well as conversations through other community stakeholders including the Council on Aging, Holden Youth Soccer, and the Chaffins Church.

Through all this work, we have compiled our lists of "must haves" as well as many "hope to have" items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOLDEN INCLUSIVE PARK COMMITTEE

Senator Gobi has expressed support of our project and Representative Ferguson has been discussing the project with Selectman Renzoni.

We have consulted with three playground equipment suppliers: Landscape Structures, Premier Park and Play, and Ultiplay. From each we have received a draft rendering of a possible inclusive park. Each supplier is a "turnkey" service provider.

The committee ended the year in a review process to select an Engineering Vendor for the next steps in this project.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOLDEN INCLUSIVE PARK COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE PROJECT VISION

The committee has been researching and developing ideas for a new universally accessible park and playground at 1 Holden Street, adjacent to the Holden Municipal Light Department. We envision a multi-generational recreational space that is accessible to community members of all ages and ability levels and provides opportunities for fitness, sports, play and connection building in a park-like setting.

Design elements for this project include:

- ❖ Replace the existing playground with a universally accessible playground
- ❖ Update the existing soccer/lacrosse field with accessible surfacing
- ❖ Adding a lighted walking path around the field
- ❖ Update the parking lot with additional handicap accessible spaces and for combat wounded veterans
- ❖ Upgrade the basketball courts with new surfacing and hoops
- ❖ Construct a shaded community gathering space
- ❖ Adult fitness equipment area and family game area
- ❖ Appropriate lighting and security

Through community feedback, the committee has finalized design requirements for materials, layout, and equipment. Our social media presence has been very active, with a total reach from our posts of over 9,700 users. Our Facebook page has received over 2,200 visits, showing the power of a strong social platform. We have researched, interviewed and selected an engineering firm. We look forward to working with the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Holden on next steps.

<https://www.facebook.com/holdeninclusivepark>

inclusivepark@holdenma.gov

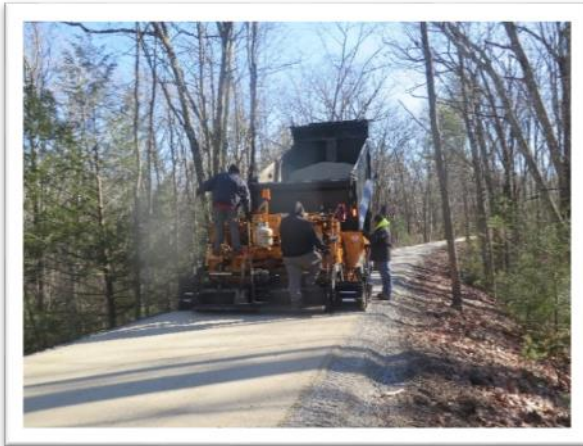


WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Colleen Abrams, Chair
Troy Milliken, Treasurer
Mike Peckar, Secretary
Christy Barnes
Stephen Chanis
Christopher Ryan

ONWARD TOGETHER – 28TH YEAR



What do you say the Mass Central Rail Trail is? New words came from partners this year: a sanctuary, transformative. And we heard the perennial drumbeat: Keep up the good and important work! Together we continue to build community with this shared use path through Sterling, West Boylston, Holden, Rutland, Oakham and Barre. Our partnership with these towns and Princeton and Paxton, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, local foundations, other nonprofits and businesses along with every individual donor and volunteer is our foundation.

INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!

"I'll help!" These words came from a trail visitor and new resident here. She immediately signed up to volunteer, and now brings her encouraging spirit to trail clearing days. "The mowers are all set for next spring," declared a pair of volunteers who cleaned and serviced our small fleet. Many volunteers helped mow, clean ditches, rake leaves, remove dead trees, offer hospitality, mail letters, reach out, stake new trail and more!

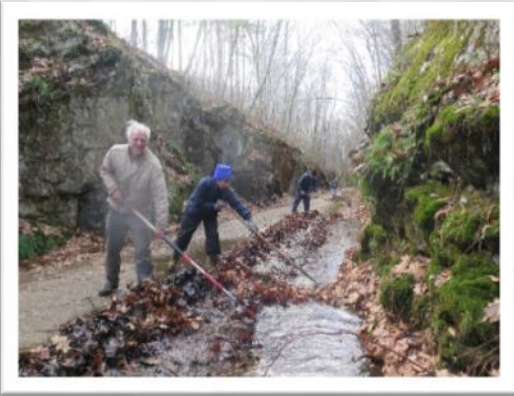
PARTNER TOWN SUPPORT

All eight Towns--Barre, Holden, Oakham, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston--contributed toward Wachusett Greenways' annual operating expenses. Special thanks to the DPW teams in Sterling, West Boylston and Holden for help with maintenance.



WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

FILLING GAPS ON THE MCRT



In 2022, with support from MassTrails, Wachusett Greenways completed two new miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Holden between Mill Street and Princeton Street and installed the new bridge in Sterling at West Washacum Lake. WG is also conducting an enhanced maintenance program to upgrade trail surfaces.

In 2023, WG will begin construction of a new accessible MCRT route over the hill in Holden from Wachusett Street (Route 31) at Mill Street toward Manning Street. Filling

the gaps and reconstructing MCRT sections for accessible shared use is part of a statewide effort to complete the 104 mile MCRT between Northampton and Boston. MassTrails and DCR guidance and matching grant support is essential for linking the whole MCRT.



TUNNEL MURALS

MCRT Charnock Tunnel Mural grew in 2022. Trail visitors express delight with the beautiful scenes created by artist Margaret McCandless and several volunteers. In 2023 Margaret will engage volunteers with painting a new Pommogussett Tunnel Mural which “weaves human history and natural history into one presentation.” These WG mural projects are produced with support from *grants from Rutland, Paxton and Holden Cultural Councils, local agencies, which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*

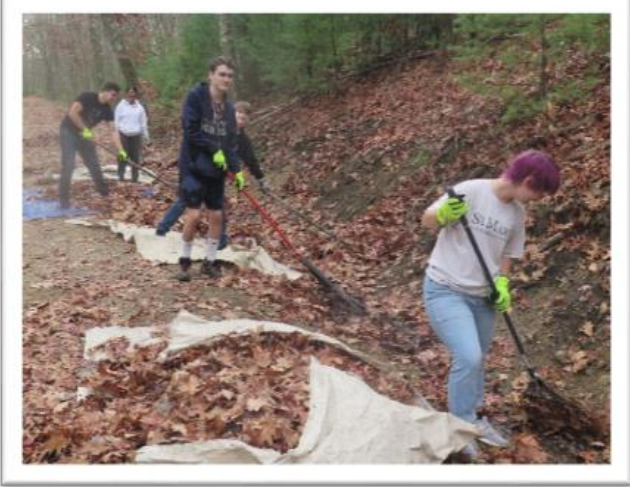
WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

WG ANNUAL MEETING

The 2022 annual meeting took place on June 16 at Trout Brook Reservation, Holden, with an outdoor picnic, review of progress and shared plans for the future. All are welcome to the 2023 annual meeting in the spring!

EACH DONOR COUNTS

Thank you to every one of the 936 donors for 2022, including 148 new donors from 117 different towns in 17 different states. As a member you help with operating expenses. Please also contribute to the Mass Central Rail Trail Funds: MCRT Construction Fund, Dr. Edward P. Yaglou MCRT Maintenance Fund, and the permanent MCRT Stewardship Endowment Fund. Contribute or volunteer at www.wachusettgreenways.org or phone 508-479-2123 or Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden 01520.



DO SOMETHING QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of the "Do-Something" project is to mobilize Holden residents to "do something" for their community, to volunteer free time in areas needing able manpower.

Name_____Address_____

Home Phone_____

Business Phone_____

Occupation_____E-mail_____

Community Interests_____

Education_____

Please check below the areas in which you would be willing to "do something" for Holden.

PLEASE CHECK 3 COMMITTEES IN ORDER OF INTEREST (1, 2, and 3)

- ☐ 250TH Permanent Gift Committee a/k/a The Bandstand Committee
- ☐ Agricultural Commission
- ☐ Affordable Housing Partnership
- ☐ Board of Assessors
- ☐ Board of Health
- ☐ Cable Advisory Committee
- ☐ Capital Planning Committee
- ☐ Master Plan Monitoring Committee
- ☐ Conservation Commission
- ☐ Council on Aging/Senior Citizens Committee
- ☐ Economic Development Commission
- ☐ Finance Committee
- ☐ Greenways Task Force
- ☐ Historic District Commission
- ☐ Historical Commission
- ☐ Holden Cultural Council
- ☐ Infrastructure Investment Fund Board
- ☐ Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board
- ☐ Open Space Committee
- ☐ Planning Board
- ☐ Recreation Committee
- ☐ Transportation/Circulation
- ☐ Water/Sewer Advisory Board
- ☐ Zoning Board of Appeals
- ☐ Other_____

Date Submitted_____

NOTE In order for a resident to serve on a Town Committee, he/she must be a registered voter in the Town of Holden. Please return to the Office of Town Manager, 1204 Main Street, Holden, MA or mail with any town bill.

TOWN STATISTICS

HOLDEN INCORPORATED JANUARY 9, 1741

Elevation at Town Hall - 818 feet

Longitude 71 51' 46" West

Latitude 42 21' 3" North

Miles of Street - Approximately 120

Town's Area - Approximately 36 Square Miles

22,178 acres of land - 447 acres of water

TOWN CLERK STATISTICS - 2022

Population as of December 31, 2022 – 19,766

Marriage Intentions Filed	72
Marriages Recorded	72
Births Recorded	159
Deaths Recorded	165
Burial Permits	82
Flammable Storage Renewals	21
Dog Licenses Issued	2,899
Kennel Licenses Issued	2
Parking Tickets Processed	31
Business Certificates	44
Raffle Permits Issued	6
Drainlayer Licenses Processed	30
Selectmen Licenses Processed	64
Zoning Board of Appeals Decisions Received	15
Planning Board Filings Received	18
Historic District Commission Applications Received	1

NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS (as of December 31, 2022)

Democratic Party	3,021
Republican Party	1,965
Green Rainbow	5
United Independent Party	61
Unenrolled	9,867
Political Designations	112
Total Registered Voters	15,031

TOWN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Town of Holden Main Number (508) 210-5500
Town of Holden Emergency Information Recording (508) 210-5555
Police/Fire/Medical Emergency "911"
www.holdenma.gov

Accounting	Town Accountant	(508) 210-5525
Administration	Town Manager	(508) 210-5501
Real Estate Assessment	Assessors	(508) 210-5515
Births/Deaths/Marriages	Town Clerk	(508) 210-5530
Building Permits/Inspections	Building Commissioner	(508) 210-5536
Cable Television	Public Access Director	(508) 829-6185
Dog Licenses	Town Clerk	(508) 210-5530
Dog/Animal Issues	Animal Control	(508) 210-5649
Drainage	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Elections/Registration	Town Clerk	(508) 210-5530
Emergency Management	Director	(508) 210-5650
Engineering	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Fire (Open Burning)	Fire Department	(508) 210-5650
Fire (Non-Emergency)	Fire Department	(508) 210-5650
Public Health Issues	Board of Health	(508) 210-5540
Housing	Holden Housing Authority	(508) 829-9182
Library	Gale Free Library	(508) 210-5560
LIGHT DEPT. EMERGENCY	After Hours/Weekends	(508) 210-5600
LIGHT DEPT. EMERGENCY	Regular Business Hours	(508) 210-5400
Light Department-Billing	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5400
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	Assessors	(508) 210-5515
Oil Burner Permits	Fire Department	(508) 210-5650
Personnel	Town Manager	(508) 210-5501
Planning	Senior Planner	(508) 210-5540
Police (Non-Emergency)	Police Department	(508) 210-5600
Recreation Department	Recreation Director	(508) 829-0263
Sanitary Inspection	Board of Health Agent	(508) 210-5540
Schools	WRSD	(508) 829-1670
Senior Citizen Matters	Senior Center	(508) 210-5570
Senior Bus	Senior Center	(508) 210-5573
Selectmen	Board of Selectmen	(508) 210-5501
Snow Removal	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Street Maintenance	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Tax/Bill Payments	Treasurer/Collector	(508) 210-5510
Trash Bills	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5402
Tree Removal	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5400
Veterans Affairs	Veterans Agent	(508) 210-5529
Water & Sewer Bills	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5401
WATER DEPT. EMERGENCY	Nights, Weekends	(508) 210-5600
Water/Sewer Superintendent	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Zoning	Building Inspector	(508) 210-5536