

**Holden, Massachusetts
2014
Annual Town Report**



YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

INDEX

Dedication	3 & 4
Our Legislators	5
Organizational Chart	6
Town Clerk Report	7
Approved Budget	26
Town Manager & Board of Selectmen	41
Employee Recognition	45
Information Technology	46
Wachusett Regional School District	48
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School	49
Town Accountant	55
Treasurer/Tax Collector	71
Assessors' Office	88
Fire Department	95
Police Department	106
Growth Management	111
Department of Public Works	124
Holden Municipal Light Department	144
Veterans Services	151
Council on Aging – Senior Citizen Services	152
Recreation Department	155
Gale Free Library	159
Cultural Council	162
Historical Commission	164
Historic District Commission	166
Infrastructure Investment Fund Board	168
250 th Anniversary Permanent Gift Committee	170
Water Sewer Advisory Board	171
Transportation Circulation Committee	173
Agricultural Commission	174
Wachusett Greenways	175
Wachusett Earthday	178
Recreation Committee	180
Help at HOME Committee	181
Cable Advisory Committee/Holden Community TV	182
Mountview School Building Committee	184
Do Something Questionnaire	189
Town Statistics	190
Telephone Numbers	Back Cover

TOWN REPORT DEDICATION



Mountview Middle School Kids in the Kommunity youth organization participates in various activities such as visiting nursing homes, cleaning up parks, food and clothing drives, and working with shelters. During the 2014-2015 winter, the Kids formed a Shovel Brigade and helped residents dig out from the overwhelming amount of snow that fell. Kids in the Kommunity has more than 300 members.



TOWN REPORT DEDICATION



The Holden DPW staff work around the clock, in all weather and temperatures, to ensure our roads, buildings, public grounds, cemeteries, etc. are well maintained and cared for. Holden is fortunate 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.

OUR LEGISLATORS

UNITED STATES SENATORS

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Warren (D) (202) 224-4543

Washington Office

317 Hart Senate Office Building
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

Boston Office

2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

(617) 565-3170

The Honorable Edward J. Markey (D)

Washington Office

218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-2742

Boston Office

975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02201

(617) 565-8519

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – THIRD DISTRICT

The Honorable James P. McGovern (D)
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-6101

34 Mechanic Street, 1st Floor
Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-7356

STATE SENATOR – FIRST WORCESTER DISTRICT

The Honorable Harriette L. Chandler (D)
State House, Room 312C, Boston, MA 02133

(617) 722-1544

Worcester Office
Harriette.Chandler@masenate.gov

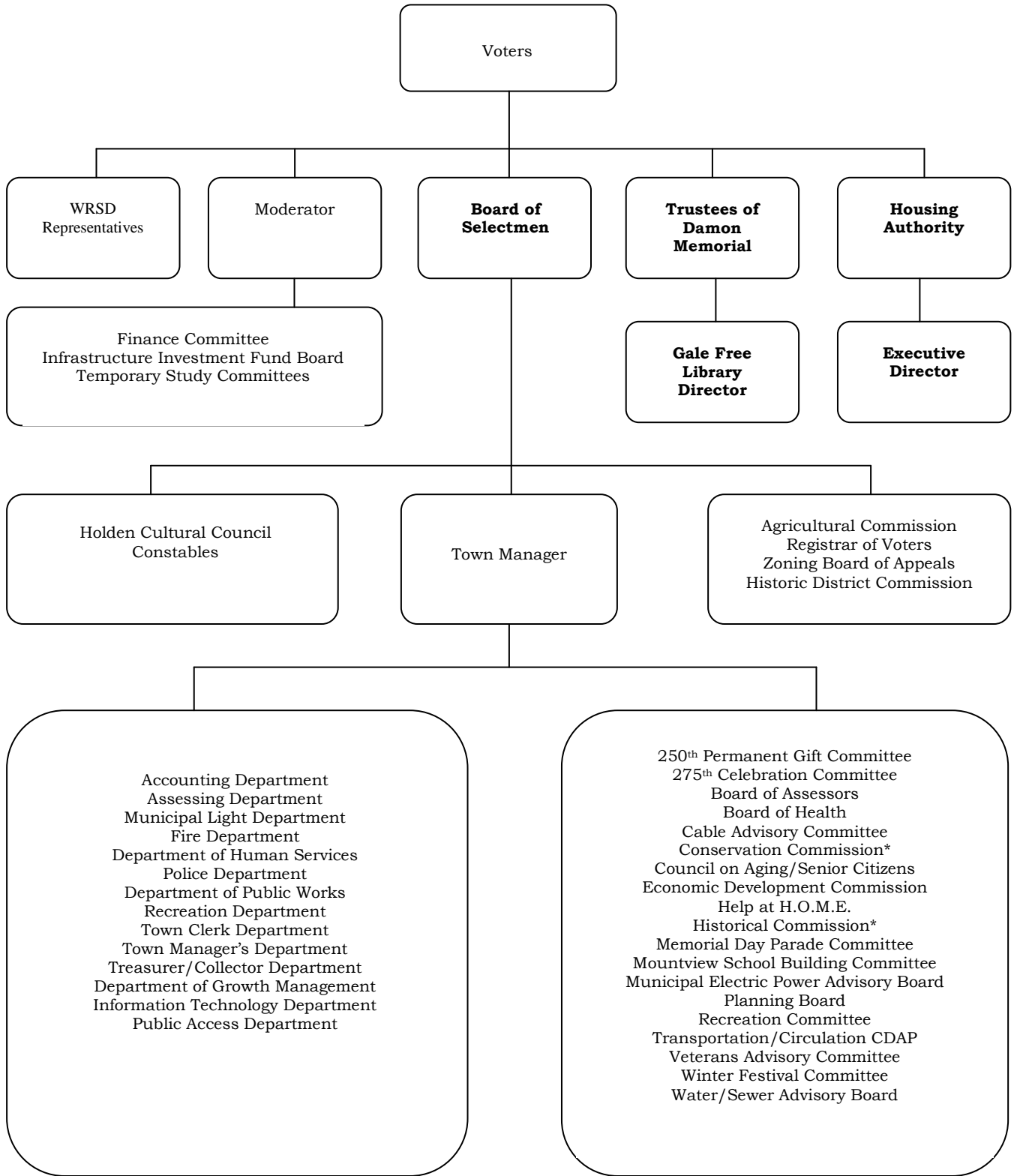
(508) 797-3373

STATE REPRESENTATIVE – FIRST WORCETER DISTRICT

The Honorable Kimberly N. Ferguson (R)
State House, Room 473B, Boston, MA 02133
Kimberly.Ferguson@mahouse.gov

(617) 722-2263

TOWN OF HOLDEN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



*With concurrence of Board of Selectmen

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Cheryl A. Jenkins – Town Clerk
Dale T. Hickey – Assistant Town Clerk
Elizabeth A. Monahan – Senior Clerk

Wardens

Beth T. Clay
Nina A. Gibbons
Patricia A. Bocian
Renate L. Hillhouse
Cynthia A. Patterson

Election Officers:

Donald R. Bocian, Karin L. Brewer, Pauline A. Brodeur, Betty J. Carlson, Carol A. Coolidge, Faye M. Ellis, Susan E. Enman, Marta C. Ferreira, Nancy R. Fournier, Betty A. Hale, Michael A. Lupienski, Gayle C. Marshall, Ellen M. Maynard, Janet A. Monroy, Kathleen M. Paracer, Patricia A. Pearson, Margaret E. Regele, Ann A. Scalzulli, Valeda C. Schmucki, Marcia G. Sherbourne, Mary L. Sloan, Susan H. Stafford, Cynthia M. Stark, Helen F. VanDeMark, Kathleen E. Welsh, Barbara A. French.

Election Alternates

Bradford G. Blodget, Kenneth R. Carroll, Ronna J. Cuker, Robert L. Davis, Mariana G. DePerrio, Mary P. Faulkner, Mark G. Jerome, Karen B. King, Karin M. Komenda, Jane Ellen Lacroix, Maureen A. Locke, Barbara R. MacPhee, Cynthia L. Mason, Stephen A. Mentzer, Dianne Milewski, Jo-Anne M. O'Rourke, Nancy E. Paul, Denise M. G. Ross, Karen L. Taylor, Albert S. VanDeMark, Claude S. Thompson, Robert M. Jacobsen, Thomas M. Jacobsen, Audrey M. Silveri, Michele J. Moran, Nancy B. Owens, Robin R. Owens, Coral A. Titone, Deann O. Seeley, Barbara A. French, Sherron D. Carson, Carol A. Davis, Faith M. Keskula, Richard D. Henderson, Janice M. MacFarlane, James W. MacFarlane, Pauline L. Dillon, Lori B. Tokarowski, Diane Forester, Sandra K. Allen, Karen A. Cavan, Cynthia A. Scott, Judith C. Evangelidis, Andrea M. Cordwell, Karen M. Tremblay, Constance J. Hamilton, Linda A. Williams, Deborah J. Nickerson, G. Edna Arcouette-Curtis.

All the statistics for the Department may be found inside the back cover of this town report.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

<i>ELECTED OFFICIALS</i>

MODERATOR

George A. Balko III	2015
---------------------	------

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, LIGHT AND WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Kenneth O'Brien, Vice Chair	2017
Kenneth E. Lipka	2014
Anthony M. Renzoni, Chair	2015
Mark S. Ferguson,	2015
Robert P. Lavigne	2016
Jeremy W. Kurtz, Clerk	2016

TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL

Stephanie J. Adams	2017
Stephanie T. Borg	2017
Constance M. Marr	2014
Richard S. Maurer	2015
Alan N. Degutis	2015
Nina Mazloff, Chair	2016
Virginia B. Powell-Brasier	2016

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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

Timothy C. Ethier	2015
Stacey L. Jackson	2017
Margaret J.K. Watson	2014
Scott H. Brown	2017
Tiffany D. Ralli	2014
Erik D. Scheinfeldt	2015
Deidre Kosky	2015
Thomas P. Curran	2016
Christina M. Smith	2016
Kenneth Mills	2016
Robert McCarthy	2017

HOLDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

Lynn Roth, Vice Chair	2014
Karen B. King (State Appointee), Chair	2014
Karen O'Connor	2016
Matthew R. Talancy	2017
Clare Zukowski, Treasurer	2018
Martin E. Gibbons	2019

APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

William M. Randell Jr.	2017
Paul L. Challenger	2017
Marilynn L. Foley, Clerk	2017
James C. Dunn	2014
Peter C. Lacy	2015
Karl Makela	2015
John R. Lambert	2015
Alan R. Berg	2016
Joseph Dolak, Chair	2016
David J. White, Sr.	2016

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND

Deborah W. McDonnell, Chair	2015
Edmond G. Benoit	2015
Dawn E. Michanowicz	2015

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

Jacquelyn M. Kelly

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Erich J. Mierzejewski, (Alternate)	2014
James C. Dunn	2014
Michael J. Antinarella	2014
Denise M. Cummings, Chair	2015
Judith A. Haran	2015
Maleah FT Gustafson	2016
Jonathan D. Hart	2016

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Maria L. Berrios	2014
Pamela S. Stevens	2014
Stephen R. Kelley	2014
Mary E.L. Shepherd	2015
Simon H. Gregory	2015
Kathleen E. Welsh	2016
Jane Becker	2016
Mary L. Copeland	2017
Nancy S. Rocheleau	2017

CONSTABLES

Barbara Stacy Smith	2016
Matthew J. Atanian	2016
Kimberly E. Lynch	2017
Daniel B. Gately	2017

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Lawrence T. Kowalczyk, Chair	2015
Michelle Leveillee	2016
Michael B. Elmes, res 4/17/14	2016
Susan M. Kowalczyk	2016
Lance G. Lazar	2016
Jeff deValdivia	2017
Nicholas M. Langhart	2017

BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Azim S. Rawji	2015
Bonnie M. Prescott	2016
S. Jane Arntz	2017
Cheryl A. Jenkins	

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Frederick J. Lonardo	2014
Silveo R. Annunziata	2014
Robert A. Butler (2nd Alternate)	2014
Robert V. Ricker	2015
Ronald E. Spakauskas, Chair	2015
James A. Deignan	2015
Roy Fraser, III	2016

<i>APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER</i>

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

Peter M. Lukes

OPERATING DEPARTMENTS

ACCOUNTANT

Lori A. Rose

BOARD OF ASSESSORS/FENCE VIEWERS

Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor	2016
James R. Dillon, Assessor	2017

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF/FIRE PREVENTION

Russell A. Hall

FIRE CHIEF/FOREST WARDEN

John Chandler, III

GROWTH MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Dennis J. Lipka

LIGHT DEPARTMENT/GENERAL MANAGER

James S. Robinson

POLICE CHIEF

David A. Armstrong

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

John R. Woodsmall

RECREATION DIRECTOR

Denise M. Morano

SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Edward R. Seidler

SENIOR PLANNER

Pamela J. Harding

TOWN CLERK

Cheryl A. Jenkins

TOWN COUNSEL

Stephen F. Madaus

Demitrios Moschos

(Special – Labor Relations)

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Sharon A. Lowder

VETERANS AGENT

Karen R. Greenwood

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patricia A. Popple	2016
Lawrence D. Popple, Chair	2016
Louis D. Tilson	2014
Christopher C. Hugo	2015
Henry C. Ouellette	2015

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Michael J. Krikonis	2016
Robert S. Lowell	2014
Luke Boucher	2014
Kenneth T. Strom	2014
Michael J. Scott	2014
Anthony Costello	2015
Matthew J. Kennedy, Chair	2015

COUNCIL ON AGING/SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Susan H. Sullivan	2016
Rebecca A. Tornblom	2016
Marilyn B. Burnham	2014
Richard S. Mansfield Jr.	2015
Jerry D. Heslinga, Chair, res 8/19/14	2015
Faye M. Ellis	2015
Maureen A. Locke	2015
Wayne D. Howard	2015

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Jeremy W. Kurtz	2016
Donald A. Cantin	2016
Jennifer J. Stanovich	2016
Ralph J. Spokis	2016
Brian R. Forts, Chair	2017
Dennis J. Lipka (ex officio)	
Robert E. Evans	2017
Robert P. Lavigne	2017

BOARD OF HEALTH

Mary J. Ricker	2016
Bruce J. Pennino	2014
Mark R. Johnson, Chair	2015

HELP AT H.O.M.E.

Brian J. Bullock	2014
Rev. Martin J. Holman	2014
Susan E. Marsh	2015
Faye M. Ellis	2015
James S. Robinson	2016
Joseph G. Sullivan	2016
Karen A. Halley	2016

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Charles T. Skillings, Chair	2016
Ida J. Nystrom	2015
Louise J. Hugo	2015
Nancy S. Rocheleau, res. 8/19/14	2015
James S. Brantl	2016

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

J. Gary Harrington	2016
Peter S. Liddy	2016
Thomas V. Runstrom	2016
Scott R. Carlson	2014
John D. Shepherd	2014
Cathleen A. Doherty	2014
Donna L. Fitch	2015

PLANNING BOARD

Scott R. Carlson	2016
John M. Michalak	2014
William J. Ritter, Chair	2014
Tina Stratis	2015
David G. Lindberg	2015
Otto R. Lies	2015
Jeffrey M. Head	2015

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Lisa M. Post, Chair	2016
Melissa A. Staiti	2016
Nancy B. Owens	2014
Robin H. Grady	2014
Erin O. Bradbury	2015

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION (CDAP)

James M. Kempton, Chair	2014
Steve Mentzer	2014
Robert G. Ferguson	2014

WATER-SEWER ADVISORY BOARD

Lawrence Kowalczyk	2015
James S. Brantl	2015
Mark R. Johnson	2014
Brian R. Forts	2015
Mark A. Elbag Jr. (ex officio)	
Eugene P. Stirchak	2016
John M. Michalak	2016

250th ANNIVERSARY PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Marilynn L. Foley	Roy Fraser, III
Mark R. Sutphen	Sarah A. Cassell
Jane Becker	

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE

Jeremy W. Kurtz
David M. Gallagher
Gary L. Antinarella
Shelby L. Pickett

Brooks S. Webster
Henry W. Bottcher Jr.
Glenn R. Gaudette
Glenn M. Sullivan

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE

Christopher A. Lucchesi, Chair
Brian R. Forts
Peter S. Liddy
Karl K. Makela
David F. Ellis
Harold M. Lane, Jr. (ex-officio)

David J. White, Sr.
Richard F. Bates
Robert Beck, Jr.
Mary A. Ryan

WINTER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Glenn R. Gaudette	2016
Nancy Gaudette	2016
Robert P. Lavigne	2016
Darla L. Lavigne	2016
Beverly S. Mansfield	2015
Cynthia E. Senes	2015
James S. Senes	2015

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Anthony Renzoni	2015
Kevin J. Podmore	2015
Ronald L. Barrus Sr.	2015
Gary L. Antinarella	2015
Gerald D. Dziejma Jr.	2016
Brooks S. Webster	2016
Silvio Annunziata	2016

APPOINTED BY THE TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Susan M. Scott

APPOINTED BY THE HOLDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cynthia A. Beard

<i>TEMPORARY STUDY COMMITTEES</i>
--

MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

David J. White Sr.

Christopher A. Lucchesi

Michael J. Sherman

Margaret J. K. Watson

Darryll McCall

Paul L. Challenger

C. Eric Githmark

Jacquelyn M. Kelly

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – MAY 12, 2014

The election was called to order by the various Wardens in Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon. The following were sworn in as election officers:

Precinct 1. Warden: Beth T. Clay. Others: Marta C. Ferreira, Faye M. Ellis, Marcia G. Sherbourne, Susan H. Stafford, Kathleen E. Welsh.

Precinct 2. Warden: Nina A. Gibbons. Others: Ellen M. Maynard, Barbara A. French, Carol A. Coolidge, Patricia A. Pearson, Betty A. Hale.

Precinct 3. Warden: Patricia A. Bocian. Others: Ann A. Scalzulli, Deann O. Seeley, Betty J. Carlson, Mary L. Sloan, Karen L. Taylor, Michael A. Lupienski,

Precinct 4. Warden: Renate L. Hillhouse. Others: Janet A. Monroy, Pauline A. Brodeur, Gayle C. Marshall, Albert S. Vandemark, Helen F. VandeMark.

Precinct 5. Warden: Cynthia A. Patterson. Others: Donald R. Bocian, Susan E. Enman, Nancy R. Fournier, Margaret E. Regele, Stephen A. Mentzer, Cynthia M. Stark.

The ballot box was opened and found to be empty, and the tabulator tape was examined to insure there were no votes already listed.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – MAY 12, 2014

OFFICES AND CANDIDATES	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC #5	TOTALS
------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	--------

MODERATOR - ONE FOR ONE YEAR

George A. Balko III	195	234	252	215	183	1,079
Write In	0	1	3	0	1	5
Blanks	67	69	73	76	64	349

SELECTMEN - ONE FOR THREE YEARS

Kenneth E. Lipka	63	55	90	90	56	354
William E. Allison	82	60	100	85	89	416
Kenneth O'Brien	103	179	115	99	88	584
Write In	1	1	5	1	2	10
Blanks	13	9	18	16	13	69

TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL - TWO FOR THREE YEARS

Stephanie T. Borg	164	181	196	176	151	868
Stephanie J. Adams	150	156	199	168	124	797
Write In	0	0	2	0	1	3
Blanks	210	271	259	238	220	1,198

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE - FOUR FOR THREE YEARS

Scott H. Brown	122	150	154	136	132	694
Stacey L. Jackson	91	123	117	116	94	541
Robert M. McCarthy	157	161	182	163	148	811
Write In – Michael J. Dennis	90	98	101	76	75	440
Write In – Stephen J. McAndrew	15	33	28	51	19	146
Write In – Asima Silva	46	23	58	19	27	173
Write In	4	7	13	5	10	39
Blanks	523	621	659	598	487	2,888

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE - ONE FOR ONE YEAR (to fill vac)

Timothy C. Ethier	171	217	228	190	173	979
Write In – Kevin F. McDonough	7	9	10	4	2	32
Write-In	16	8	14	15	12	65
Blanks	68	70	76	82	61	357

HOLDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY - ONE FOR FIVE YEARS

Martin E. Gibbons	185	200	224	197	165	971
Write In	2	1	1	3	0	7
Blanks	75	103	103	91	83	455

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	2,601	2,463	2,341	2,520	2,690	12,615
--------------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	262	304	328	291	248	1433
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

VOTER PARTICIPATION	10 %	12 %	14 %	12 %	9 %	11 %
----------------------------	------	------	------	------	-----	------

The polls were closed at 8:00 p.m. The tabulating concluded at 10:30 p.m., and the results of the election were announced.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order and declared open by the Moderator, George A. Balko III, at 7:45 p.m. at Wachusett Regional High School. The salute to the flag followed. There were 135 registered voters present. Ten persons without voting privileges were present. The Moderator waived the reading of the warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator for said meeting. No action being necessary, the Article was **passed over**.

ARTICLE 2. This Article having been acted upon previously, **no action was necessary** (election of officers). The Moderator announced the newly elected officers.

ARTICLE 3. **No action was necessary under this Article.** Moderator Balko noted that the Annual Town Report contained the reports of Town Officers, Boards, Commissions, and Committees. The 2013 Report was dedicated to Albert G. Ferron. Chairman Paul Challenger presented an update of the Mountview School Building Project. Finance Committee Chairman Joseph Dolak presented a brief overview on the status of the budget.

ARTICLE 4. On motion made by James Dunn it was **unanimously voted** 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
2 nd Member	1,000.00
3 rd Member	1,000.00
4 th Member	1,000.00
5 th Member	1,000.00
Trustees of Damon Memorial - 6 Members	None
Wachusett Regional School District Committee – 10 Members	None

ARTICLE 5. On motion made by Marilynn Foley it was **unanimously voted** to take no action under this article. (past debts and charges)

ARTICLE 6.

#1 – A motion was made by Joseph Dolak that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$5,151,384 for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT, item 1, substantially as shown on page 5 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED” and to raise said sum by transferring \$34,750 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$12,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$50,000 from Overlay Surplus and by raising and appropriating

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

\$5,054,634 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.

A motion was made by Jeremy Kurtz to amend the motion made under article 6-1, by including an additional appropriation of \$3,500 to fund the Economic Development Committee, such that the motion will be as follows:

That the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, a total sum of \$5,154,884, for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT, Item 1, substantially as shown on page 5 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2015 RECOMMENDED", and including \$3,500 for the Growth Management expense budget to fund Economic Development Committee activities, and to raise said total sum by transferring \$34,750 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$12,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$50,000 from Overlay Surplus and by raising and appropriating the \$5,058,134 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 made deem advisable to effect adjustments of salary and wages in the ensuing fiscal year.

The amendment carried by a standing vote of 78 Yes and 37 No. The main motion as amended passed by a **unanimous vote**.

#2 – On motion made by Peter Lacy it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$3,881,848 for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT, item 2, substantially as shown on page 6 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2015 RECOMMENDED" and to raise said sum by, by transferring \$71,871 from the Sewer Connection Fund, and by transferring \$1,829 from reserved bond premium in the hands of the Treasurer, and by raising and appropriating \$3,808,148 to cover the balance.

#3 – On motion made by John Lambert it was **unanimously voted** that the Town raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum \$4,549,133 for the proposed budget for PUBLIC SAFETY, item 3, substantially as shown on page 6 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2015 RECOMMENDED" and to raise said sum by transferring \$25,000 from the Wachusett Fund, and by raising and appropriating \$4,524,133 to cover the balance.

#4 – On motion made by Alan Berg it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

\$2,679,871 for the proposed budget for PUBLIC WORKS, item 4, substantially as shown on page 7 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED” and to raise said sum by transferring \$40,000 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, and by raising and appropriating \$2,639,871 to cover the balance.

#5 – On motion made by Peter Lacy it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate, to pay direct debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum \$6,443,340 and to transfer the sum of \$74,750 to the general fund to cover indirect costs for the ensuing year, for the proposed budget for the WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, item 5, substantially as shown on page 7 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED” and to raise said total sum of \$6,518,090 by transferring \$680,000 from Water/Sewer free cash in the hands of the Treasurer and to raise the sum of \$5,838,090 through fees and charges to cover the balance.

#6 – On motion made by Karl Makela it was **unanimously voted** that the Town raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$345,351 for the proposed budget for HUMAN SERVICES, item 6, substantially as shown on page 8 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED.”

#7 – On motion made by Paul Challenger it was **unanimously voted** that the Town raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$796,215 for VOCATIONAL EDUCATION which is a part of the Proposed Education Budget, item 7, as printed on page 8 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED.”

#8 – A motion was made by Marilyn Foley that the Town raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$798,593 for the proposed budget for CULTURE, item 8, substantially as shown on page 8 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED.”

A motion was made by Robert Lavigne to amend the motion made under Article 6-8, by including an additional appropriation of \$10,000 for the Library books budget, such that the motion will be as follows:

That the Town vote to raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$808,593 for the proposed budget for CULTURE, Item 8, substantially as shown on page 8 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED.”, and including \$10,000 for the Library books budget.

The main motion as **amended passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

#9 – On motion made by David White it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate, to pay direct debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$1,135,423 and to transfer the sum of \$12,000 to the general fund to cover indirect costs for the ensuing year, for the proposed budget for the SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND, item 9, substantially as shown on page 9 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2015 RECOMMENDED” and to raise said total sum of \$1,147,423 by transferring \$30,000 from Solid Waste Free Cash, and in the hands of the Treasurer and to raise the sum of \$1,117,423 through fees and charges to cover the balances.

ARTICLE 7. On motion made by Paul Challenger it was **unanimously voted** that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,457,413 for the Town’s share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year, such sum to include the Town’s so-called required Local Minimum Contribution, debt service and transportation, such amount to be paid to the Wachusett Regional School District.

ARTICLE 8. On motion made by Paul Challenger it was **unanimously voted** that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,993,816 for the Town’s share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year to supplement the appropriation made under Article 7 of the warrant for this town meeting, it being understood that by appropriating \$2,993,816 under this Article 8 and \$19,457,413 under Article 7 of the warrant for this town meeting, for a total appropriation by the Town to the Wachusett Regional School District of \$22,451,229, the Town thereby approves a budget of \$81,307,859 for the fiscal year 2015 for the Wachusett Regional School District.

ARTICLE 9. On motion made by Alan Berg it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate the sum of \$148,300 to be added to the Department of Public Works Depreciation Fund, and to raise said sum by transferring the amount of \$50,000 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, and by raising and appropriating \$98,300 to cover the balance, and that the Town appropriate and transfer from the Department of Public Works Depreciation Fund the sum of \$48,300 to pay debt service for the borrowing for the purchase of a Dump Truck equipped with Plow and Spreader.

ARTICLE 10. On motion made by James Dunn it was **unanimously voted** that the Town accept and expend all monies to be received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 90 of the General Laws for highway purposes, or any other legislation adopted by the General Court relating to public works.

ARTICLE 11. On motion made by David White it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate the sum of \$67,000 to the Water/Sewer Stabilization Fund which shall be subject to all the restrictions imposed on the use of the Town’s Water/Sewer

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

Enterprise Fund by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F 1/2 and to raise said sum by transferring \$67,000 from available funds in Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 12. On motion made by John Lambert it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate the sum of \$191,200 to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus and Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund, established pursuant to MGL Chapter 40 §5B, and to raise said sum by transferring \$58,652 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, and by raising and appropriating \$132,548 to cover the balance, and transfer from the Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus and Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund the sum of \$41,200 to pay debt service for the borrowing for the acquisition of Engine 4.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 13. On motion made by Joseph Dolak it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate the sum of \$677,860 to be added to the Stabilization Fund and to raise said sum by transferring the amount of \$677,860 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 14. On motion made by Joseph Dolak it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,935,500 for the purpose of acquiring capital items substantially as shown on page 10 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK FY 2015 CAPITAL BUDGET," and to raise said sum by raising by taxation the sum of \$1,285,500, by borrowing the sum of \$500,000 under G.L. Chapter 44, Section 8, clause (7C), or any other enabling authority, which borrowing relates to the acquisition of a new Ambulance for the Fire Department and a new Loader with Wing Plow for the DPW Highway Division, and by borrowing the sum of \$1,150,000 which borrowing relates to the Water-Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works, and to that end that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds and notes therefore totaling \$1,650,000.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 15. On motion made by David White it was **passed by majority** that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of completing improvements to the heating system at the Dawson Elementary School, including the conversion from an oil heating system to a natural gas heating system.

ARTICLE 16. A Motion was made by Alan Berg that the Town take no action under this Article.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

A motion was made by Robert Lavigne to amend the motion made under Article 16 to provide for an appropriation into the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund, such that the motion will be as follows:

That the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$300,000 to be deposited into the Town's Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under Article 30 of the May 18, 2009 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 32B, Section 20.

The amended motion **failed by a majority voice vote** and the original motion **passed by majority**.

ARTICLE 17. On motion made by James Dunn it was **unanimously voted** that the Town vote to continue a Recreation Revolving Fund in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 and Chapter 408 of the Acts of 1996 for use by the Recreation Department into which shall be deposited recreation user fees, exclusive of After School Program fees, such fund to be used only to defray the expenses of the Town Recreation Programs, provided that the expenditures from such Fund shall not exceed \$445,065

ARTICLE 18. On motion made by Marilynn Foley it was **unanimously voted** that the Town vote to continue a Cable Television Revolving Fund in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for use by the Town Manager into which shall be deposited all monies received from the Cable TV provider, such Fund to be used to defray the cost of equipment, salaries and other expenses incurred by the Town in connection with the public, educational and governmental access programming contemplated by the CATV license granted by the Town, provided that the expenditures from such Fund shall not exceed \$304,960.

ARTICLE 19. On motion made by Marilynn Foley it was **unanimously voted** that the Town continue an Inspection Revolving Fund in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for use by the Inspection Department into which shall be deposited permit fees paid for various building components, such Fund to be used to defray the cost of salaries and other expenses incurred by the Town in connection with professional inspections for all building construction and renovation activities, and for all electrical, mechanical, plumbing and gas fitting work providing inspection services for various building projects, provided that the expenditures from such Fund shall not exceed \$241,829.

ARTICLE 20. On motion made by Paul Challenger it was **unanimously voted** that the Town appropriate the sum of \$421,503 to be added to the Town of Holden Infrastructure Investment Fund and to raise said sum by raising and appropriating the sum of \$398,614 and by transferring \$22,889 from the Recreation Revolving Fund.

ARTICLE 21. On motion made by Deborah McDonnell it was unanimously voted the Town appropriate the sum of \$547,889 to pay fiscal year 2015 debt service for the

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

Municipal Pool Facilities Construction Project and the Public Safety Facility Construction Project and to raise said sum by appropriating and transferring \$547,889 from the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 22. On motion made by Karl Makela it was **unanimously voted** that the Town amend the vote under Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting on May 20, 2013, so that such vote appropriates and authorizes the borrowing of \$525,000 pursuant to G.L. Chapters 44 and/or 29C, or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of water main installation and SCADA improvement projects relating to the Water-Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works, instead of for the Avery Heights Tank Painting project; and to that end, the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to issue bonds and notes for such water main installation and SCADA improvement projects in the aggregate amount of \$525,000.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 23. On motion made by Paul Challenger it was unanimously voted that no action be taken under this Article. (offsetting debt service to Mountview Middle School)

ARTICLE 24. On motion made by Anthony Renzoni it was **unanimously voted** to permit the use of the Town Hall for the next year at less than the fair rental value to: John E. Harkins Post #42 American Legion, Boy and Girl Scout Troops of Holden, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Women's Auxiliary of the John E. Harkins Post #42, Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 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 Associated Taxpayers and Holden for Children.

ARTICLE 25. On motion made by Anthony Renzoni it was **unanimously voted** that the Town authorize the sum of \$137,304 of the excess of the income of the Municipal Light Department for the calendar years 2014 and 2015 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, 2014.

ARTICLE 26. On motion made by Jeremy Kurtz it was **unanimously voted** that the Town 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, 2014 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

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 19, 2014

Rate Stabilization Fund of said Municipal Light Plant as may be hereafter authorized by the Board of Light Commissioners as outlined in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 164, Section 57.

ARTICLE 27. On motion made by Anthony Renzoni it was **unanimously voted** that no action be taken on this Article.
(Street Acceptances)

ARTICLE 28. On motion made by Robert Lavigne it was **voted by majority** that the Town make available for disposition and authorize the Town Manager to dispose of by sale, upon such terms and conditions as the Town Manager deems to be in the best interest of the Town, a portion of the Town-owned property located at and known as 175 Highland Street with a building thereon, said property is shown on a sketch plan entitled "Town-owned Properties at 175 Highland Street, Holden, MA", dated April 30, 2014, on file in the Town Clerk's Office and shown as Parcel 54, Parcel 147 and being a portion of the land shown as Parcel 48, all on Assessor's Map 131, and to deposit the proceeds from the sale of said property, when received, to the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

ARTICLE 29. On motion made by Robert Lavigne it was **unanimously voted** that the Town make available for lease, upon such terms and conditions as the Town Manager deems to be in the best interest of the Town, space on the Steele Street Water Tank and any appurtenant property, located on Steele Street and shown on Assessor's Map 202, Parcel 113, for the siting of personal wireless communications facilities.
2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

ARTICLE 30. On motion made by Jeffrey Head it was **unanimously voted** that the Town amend the Holden Zoning Bylaw by (i) inserting in Section II, entitled "Definitions", a new definition concerning "Registered Marijuana Facility"; (ii) inserting in Section V, Table 1, entitled "Use Regulations", a new use entitled "Registered Marijuana Facility"; and (iii) inserting in Section XI, entitled "Administration and Enforcement" a new Section XI J.3.(k), to be entitled "Registered Marijuana Facilities", to read as set forth in the document so entitled and on file in the Town Clerk's Office dated April 29, 2014.

2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED

Voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

FY 2015 APPROVED BUDGET

Item #	FY2014 Voted Budget	Category	FY2015 Recommended
--------	------------------------	----------	-----------------------

		GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
	1,414,389	Salary & Wages	1,473,123
	3,438,154	Operating Expense	3,678,261
1	4,852,543	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	5,151,384

(DETAIL LISTED BELOW)

		<i>Moderator</i>	
	100	Salary & Wages	100
	65	Operating Expense	65
	165		165
		<i>Finance Committee</i>	
	0	Salary & Wages	0
	1,581	Operating Expense	1,586
	150,000	Reserve Fund	150,000
	151,581		151,586
		<i>Selectmen</i>	
	7,150	Salary & Wages	7,400
	18,250	Operating Expense	21,770
	25,400		29,170
		<i>Town Manager/Personnel</i>	
	385,334	Salary & Wages	423,735
	29,250	Operating Expense	28,594
	414,584		452,329
		<i>Information Technology</i>	
	198,890	Salary & Wages	210,943
	130,158	Operating Expense	162,676
	329,048		373,619
		<i>Accounting</i>	
	143,510	Salary & Wages	150,801
	30,230	Operating Expense	25,230
	173,740		176,031
		<i>Treasurer/Collector</i>	
	188,152	Salary & Wages	200,170
	69,100	Operating Expense	79,600
	257,252		279,770
		<i>Assessors</i>	
	189,376	Salary & Wages	153,233
	29,100	Operating Expense	27,100
	218,476		180,333

	<i>Legal</i>	
195,000	Operating Expense	195,000
<u>195,000</u>		<u>195,000</u>
	<i>Town Clerk</i>	
169,319	Salary & Wages	189,266
30,475	Operating Expense	35,295
<u>199,794</u>		<u>224,561</u>
	<i>Growth Management</i>	
132,558	Salary & Wages	137,475
98,830	Operating Expense	99,250
<u>231,388</u>		<u>236,725</u>
	<i>Insurance</i>	
1,591,950	Operating Expense	1,666,500
<u>1,591,950</u>		<u>1,666,500</u>
	<i>Retirement</i>	
1,064,165	Operating Expense	1,185,595
<u>1,064,165</u>		<u>1,185,595</u>

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT SERVICE	
	Operating Expense	3,881,848
2	3,717,606	3,881,848

	PUBLIC SAFETY	
	Salary & Wages	3,800,620
	Operating Expense	748,513
3	4,396,360	4,549,133

	<i>Police Department</i>	
1,947,363	Salary & Wages	1,992,637
237,150	Operating Expense	243,150
<u>2,184,513</u>		<u>2,235,787</u>
	<i>Animal Control</i>	
47,198	Salary & Wages	51,864
10,050	Operating Expense	10,550
<u>57,248</u>		<u>62,414</u>
	<i>Fire Department</i>	
987,666	Salary & Wages	1,059,257
145,100	Operating Expense	145,100
<u>1,132,766</u>		<u>1,204,357</u>
	<i>Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</i>	
661,133	Salary & Wages	689,362
148,900	Operating Expense	147,000
<u>810,033</u>		<u>836,362</u>

	<i>Public Safety Complex</i>	
0	Salary & Wages	0
195,600	Expense	193,953
195,600		193,953
	<i>Emergency Management</i>	
5,000	Salary & Wages	5,000
7,600	Operating Expense	7,660
12,600		12,660
	<i>Sealer of Weights & Measures</i>	
2,500	Salary & Wages	2,500
1,100	Operating Expense	1,100
3,600		3,600

	PUBLIC WORKS	
1,403,584	Salary & Wages	1,412,638
823,950	Operating Expense	817,233
375,000	Snow Removal	450,000
4	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,679,871

	<i>Administration</i>	
157,650	Salary & Wages	165,395
8,550	Operating Expense	8,750
166,200		174,145
	<i>Engineering</i>	
135,332	Salary & Wages	141,497
122,425	Operating Expense	121,675
257,757		263,172
	<i>Highway Division</i>	
498,038	Salary & Wages	507,517
318,570	Operating Expense	326,300
375,000	Snow Removal	450,000
1,191,608		1,283,817
	<i>Equipment Repair</i>	
168,045	Salary & Wages	172,138
18,930	Operating Expense	18,900
186,975		191,038
	<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>	
444,519	Salary & Wages	426,091
294,825	Operating Expense	290,108
739,344		716,199
	<i>Garage Division</i>	
60,650	Operating Expense	51,500
60,650		51,500

		WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	
	537,604	Salary & Wages	574,370
	4,955,779	Operating Expense	5,091,470
	74,750	Indirect Costs	74,750
	242,665	Emergency Reserve	380,000
	490,000	Capital Outlay	397,500
5	<u>6,300,798</u>	TOTAL WATER/SEWER	<u>6,518,090</u>

MONIES TO FUND WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND ARE NOT RAISED BY TAX DOLLARS BUT WITH REVENUES RECEIVED THROUGH WATER & SEWER FEES

		HUMAN SERVICES	
	227,471	Salary & Wages	256,901
	86,850	Operating Expense	88,450
6	<u>314,321</u>	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	<u>345,351</u>

		<i>Veterans Services</i>	
	6,200	Salary & Wages	25,000
	6,500	Operating Expense	6,500
	<u>50,000</u>	Aid & Assistance	<u>50,000</u>
	62,700		81,500
		<i>Senior Citizens</i>	
	221,271	Salary & Wages	231,901
	<u>30,350</u>	Operating Expense	<u>31,950</u>
	251,621		263,851

		EDUCATION	
		WRSD Net Minimum Contribution (Required)	17,038,520
	16,256,584	WRSD Voluntary	2,993,816
	3,165,485	Debt (New School Constr.)	1,091,215
	1,210,416	Debt (Oil Remediation)	42,020
	42,877	Transportation (Required)	1,285,658
	<u>1,205,104</u>	Sub-Total Education	<u>22,451,229</u>
	21,880,466		
7	<u>578,847</u>	Vocational Education	<u>796,215</u>
	22,459,313	TOTAL EDUCATION	23,247,444

		CULTURE	
	544,116	Salary & Wages	568,650
	235,523	Operating Expense	229,943
8	779,639	TOTAL CULTURE	798,593

		<i>Damon Memorial Library</i>	
	544,116	Salary & Wages	568,650
	228,823	Operating Expense	223,243
	772,939		791,893
		<i>Historical Commission</i>	
	0	Salary & Wages	0
	6,700	Operating Expense	6,700
	6,700		6,700

		SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND	
	42,925	Salary & Wages	45,608
	1,097,618	Operating Expense	1,089,815
	12,000	Indirect Costs	12,000
9	1,152,543	TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,147,423

10	39,122,316	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	40,653,624
----	------------	--------------------------	-------------------

REVOLVING FUNDS

		RECREATION	
	177,985	Salary & Wages	183,538
	115,600	Operating Expense	99,427
	32,100	Indirect Costs	32,100
	56,000	Capital Outlay	130,000
	381,685	Total Expense	445,065
	119,449	Transfer to IIF	22,889
	501,134	Total Recreation	467,954

		AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	
	209,801	Salary & Wages	219,343
	116,808	Operating Expense	114,885
	326,609	Total After School	334,228

	CABLE REVOLVING	
96,471	Salary & Wages	100,787
216,563	Operating Expense	204,173
313,034	Total Cable	304,960
	INSPECTION REVOLVING	
158,030	Salary & Wages	165,134
65,740	Operating Expense	76,695
0	Indirect Costs	0
223,770	Total Inspection	241,829

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

The election was called to order by the various Wardens in Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon. The following were sworn in as Election Officers:

Precinct 1. Warden: Beth T. Clay. Others: Kathleen E. Welsh, Marta C. Ferreira, Marcia G. Sherbourne, Susan H. Stafford and Faye M. Ellis.

Precinct 2. Warden: Nina A. Gibbons. Others: Barbara A. French, Robert L. Davis, Carol A. Coolidge, Richard D. Henderson, and Jane Ellen Lacroix.

Precinct 3. Warden: Patricia A. Bocian. Others: Kathleen M. Paracer, Ann A. Scalzulli, Mary L. Sloan, Betty J. Carlson and Michael A. Lupinski.

Precinct 4. Warden: Renate L. Hillhouse. Others: Pauline A. Brodeur, Helen F. VanDeMark, Albert S. VanDeMark, Janet A. Monroy, and Faith M. Keskula.

Precinct 5. Warden: Cynthia A. Patterson. Others: Nancy R. Fournier, Susan E. Enman, Cynthia M. Stark, Margaret E. Regele, Stephen A. Mentzer and Donald R. Bocian.

The ballot box was opened and found to be empty, and the tabulator tape was examined to insure there were no votes already listed.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

SUMMARY OF THE VOTE

	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC TOTALS #5	
DEMOCRATIC PARTY						
SENATOR IN CONGRESS						
Edward J. Markey	149	191	204	184	206	934
All Others	3	0	1	1	2	7
Blanks	81	81	83	61	98	404
GOVERNOR						
Donald M. Berwick	51	42	62	50	62	267
Martha Coakley	98	115	111	99	119	542
Steven Grossman	81	112	109	92	122	516
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	3	3	6	5	3	20
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR						
Leland Cheung	37	42	45	29	45	198
Stephen J. Kerrigan	137	161	170	152	177	797
Michael E. Lake	13	22	20	25	21	101
All Others	1	0	0	0	0	1
Blanks	45	47	53	40	63	248
ATTORNEY GENERAL						
Maura Healey	139	159	180	154	199	831
Warren E. Tolman	82	95	86	86	93	442
All Others	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blanks	12	18	22	6	13	71
SECRETARY OF STATE						
William Francis Galvin	165	195	214	195	206	975
All Others	0	1	1	0	1	3
Blanks	68	76	73	51	99	367
TREASURER						
Thomas P. Conroy	51	60	64	57	74	306
Barry R. Finegold	68	84	83	68	95	398
Deborah B. Goldberg	71	94	93	87	97	442
All Others	0	0	1	0	1	2
Blanks	43	34	47	34	39	197
AUDITOR						
Suzanne M. Bump	143	178	192	173	190	876

All Others	2	1	1	0	1	5
Blanks	88	93	95	73	115	464

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

James P. McGovern	175	214	214	206	228	1037
All Others	1	2	1	1	2	7
Blanks	57	56	73	39	76	301

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC TOTALS #5	
--	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------------------	--

COUNCILLOR

All Others	0	2	1	2	4	9
Blanks	233	270	287	244	302	1336

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Harriette L. Chandler	154	198	202	173	230	957
William Feegbeh	7	4	7	6	0	24
Sean M. Maher	54	59	61	55	61	290
All Others	1	0	1	0	0	2
Blanks	17	11	17	12	15	72

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

All Others	0	2	4	1	2	9
Blanks	233	270	284	245	304	1336

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Joseph D. Early, Jr.	170	209	216	198	229	1022
All Others	0	1	0	3	0	4
Blanks	63	62	72	45	77	319

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Stephen G. Abraham	147	192	200	181	202	922
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	86	80	88	65	104	423

REPUBLICAN PARTY

	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC TOTALS #5	
--	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------------------	--

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Brian J. Herr	134	140	108	140	140	662
All Others	0	0	1	1	0	2
Blanks	46	46	37	58	37	224

GOVERNOR

Charles D. Baker	127	130	105	158	134	654
Mark R. Fisher	52	55	40	38	42	227

All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	1	1	1	3	1	7

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito	164	166	138	173	155	796
All Others	0	0	0	1	0	1
Blanks	16	20	8	25	22	91

ATTORNEY GENERAL

John B. Miller	133	139	117	147	137	673
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	47	47	29	52	40	215

SECRETARY OF STATE

David D'Arcangelo	129	138	112	143	127	649
All Others	0	0	0	0	2	2
Blanks	51	48	34	56	48	237

TREASURER

Michael James Heffernan	126	139	116	141	130	652
All Others	0	0	1	1	1	3
Blanks	54	47	29	57	46	233

AUDITOR

Patricia S. Saint Aubin	122	136	111	140	128	637
All Others	0	0	0	2	0	2
Blanks	58	50	35	57	49	249

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

All Others	4	2	5	5	2	18
Blanks	176	184	141	194	175	870

COUNCILLOR

Jennie L. Caissie	121	138	114	146	126	645
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	59	48	32	53	51	243

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Paul J. Franco	124	145	115	147	134	665
All Others	0	0	0	1	1	2
Blanks	56	41	31	51	42	221

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Kimberly N. Ferguson	160	161	137	168	150	776
All Others	0	1	0	1	1	3
Blanks	20	24	9	30	26	109

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

All Others	2	0	4	6	15	27
Blanks	178	186	142	193	162	861

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Stephanie K. Fattman	132	140	113	148	128	661
All Others	1	0	1	0	0	2
Blanks	47	46	32	51	49	225

TOTAL REGISTERED**VOTERS**

	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC TOTALS #5	
Democrats	514	552	541	555	580	2742
Republicans	471	411	386	413	379	2060
Political Designations	16	16	7	12	14	65
Unenrolleds	1601	1493	1417	1581	1746	7838
Grand Totals	2602	2472	2351	2561	2719	12705

TOTAL VOTES CAST

	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC TOTALS #5	
Democrats	233	272	288	246	306	1345
Republicans	180	186	146	199	177	888
Grand Totals	413	458	434	445	483	2233

VOTER PARTICIPATION

16%	19%	18%	17%	18%	18%
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

The polls were closed at 8:00 p.m. The tabulating concluded at 11:00 p.m., and the results of the election were announced.

TOWN OF HOLDEN STATE ELECTION – NOVEMBER 4, 2014

The election was called to order by the various Wardens in Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon. The following were sworn in as Election Officers:

Precinct 1. Warden: Beth T. Clay. Others: Marta C. Ferreira, Marcia G. Sherbourne, Faye M. Ellis, Susan H. Stafford, Kathleen E. Welsh.

Precinct 2. Warden: Nina A. Gibbons. Others: Ellen M. Maynard, Carol A. Coolidge, Barbara A. French, Betty A. Hale and Patricia A. Pearson.

Precinct 3. Warden: Patricia A. Bocian. Others: Kathleen M. Paracer, Ann A. Scalzulli, Mary L. Sloan, Michael A. Lupinski, and Robert L. Davis .

Precinct 4. Warden: Renate L. Hillhouse. Others: Pauline A. Brodeur, Helen F. VanDeMark , Valeda C. Schmucki, Janet A. Monroy, and Faith M. Keskula .

Precinct 5. Warden: Cynthia A. Patterson. Others: Nancy R. Fournier, Susan E. Enman, Margaret E. Regele, Donald R. Bocian, Cynthia M. Stark and Stephen A. Mentzer.

The ballot box was opened and found to be empty, and the tabulator tape was examined to insure there were no votes already listed.

**TOWN OF HOLDEN
STATE ELECTION – NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

SUMMARY OF THE VOTE

OFFICE AND CANDIDATES	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC #5	TOTALS
SENATOR IN CONGRESS						
Edward J. Markey	649	703	710	703	788	3,553
Brian J. Herr	816	827	742	831	873	4,089
All Others	2	0	0	0	2	4
Blanks	62	73	57	89	71	352
GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR						
Baker and Polito	965	994	869	1,028	1,044	4,900
Coakley and Kerrigan	489	536	558	506	595	2,684
Falchuk and Jennings	41	48	41	49	51	230
Lively and Saunders	8	8	14	13	18	61
McCormick and Post	8	5	13	11	12	49
All Others	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blanks	18	12	14	16	13	73
ATTORNEY GENERAL						
Maura Healey	660	728	731	746	818	3,683
John B. Miller	788	797	706	796	843	3,930
All Others	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blanks	81	78	72	81	72	384
SECRETARY OF STATE						
William Francis Galvin	806	878	866	859	979	4,388
David D'Arcangelo	613	597	526	628	634	2,998
Daniel L. Factor	44	39	44	45	49	221
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	66	89	73	91	72	391
TREASURER						
Deborah B. Goldberg	543	617	624	624	686	3,094
Michael James Heffernan	822	842	741	840	908	4,153
Ian T. Jackson	57	33	46	44	40	220
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	107	111	98	115	100	531
AUDITOR						
Suzanne M. Bump	617	696	692	685	783	3,473
Patricia S Saint Aubin	732	724	658	744	781	3,639
MK Merelice	48	45	43	48	41	225

All Others	0	1	0	1	0	2
Blanks	132	137	116	145	129	659

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

James P. McGovern	1,007	1,061	1,032	1,081	1,166	5,347
All Others	18	21	14	16	27	96
Blanks	504	521	463	526	541	2,555

COUNCILLOR

Jennie L. Caissie	1,031	1,067	1,020	1,098	1,188	5,404
All Others	0	8	4	3	7	22
Blanks	498	528	485	522	539	2,572

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Harriette L. Chandler	706	775	780	746	861	3,868
Paul J. Franco	751	756	655	794	787	3,743
All Others	2	1	1	0	0	4
Blanks	70	71	73	83	86	383

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Kimberly N. Ferguson	1,165	1,182	1,124	1,231	1,300	6,002
All Others	2	6	5	8	9	30
Blanks	362	415	380	384	425	1,966

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Joseph D. Early, Jr.	1,055	1,144	1,104	1,154	1,240	5,697
All Others	11	10	5	4	9	39
Blanks	463	449	400	465	485	2262

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Stephen G. Abraham	574	681	670	707	754	3,386
Stephanie K. Fattman	865	851	760	825	880	4,181
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	90	71	79	91	100	431

QUESTION #1

Yes	968	959	932	1,008	1,058	4,925
No	521	595	535	572	631	2,854
Blanks	40	49	42	43	45	219

QUESTION #2

Yes	257	281	267	264	245	1314
No	1,264	1,310	1,227	1,353	1,473	6,627
Blanks	8	12	15	6	16	57

QUESTION #3

Yes	587	583	551	549	541	2,811
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

No	925	1,002	937	1,051	1,171	5,086
Blanks	17	18	21	23	22	101

QUESTION #4

Yes	739	776	734	780	868	3,897
No	761	789	752	813	830	3,945
Blanks	29	38	23	30	36	156

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC #5	TOTALS
Democrats	512	557	550	557	589	2765
Republicans	472	413	391	420	377	2073
Political Designations	16	17	6	12	14	65
Unenrolleds	1,619	1,524	1,423	1,615	1,761	7,942
Grand Totals	2,619	2,511	2,370	2,604	2,741	12,845

TOTAL VOTES CAST	PREC #1	PREC #2	PREC #3	PREC #4	PREC #5	TOTALS
Grand Totals	1,529	1,603	1,509	1,623	1,734	7,998

VOTER PARTICIPATION	58%	64%	64%	62%	63%	62%
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

The polls were closed at 8:00 p.m. The tabulating concluded at 11:00 p.m., and the results of the election were announced.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOWN MANAGER & BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Town Manager and Board of Selectmen continued building on past successes to providing quality, efficient municipal services to the town residents in 2014:

Select Board Transition

In the spring of 2014, the Selectmen welcomed new member Kenneth O'Brien. The Board recognized Kenneth Lipka, out-going Selectman, for his service as a member of the Board and for his dedication to the Town.

The Board of Selectmen and Town Manager have been involved in many projects of importance in 2014. Each year, the Selectmen develop policies and determine a set of goals, which the Town Manager implements. The following is a summary of and reflections on several of the year's projects and initiatives:

Town Manager's Contract

In November 2014, based on strong performance, Manager Jacquelyn Kelly's commitment to the Town and the residents of Holden, and to provide stability in town administration in the short term, the Board of Selectmen voted to extend the Town Manager's contract to November of 2017.

Develop a 2015 Budget that Stays Under a 2 ¼ Percent Increase

The FY 2015 budget taxed below 2 percent as stated in this goal. In addition, the budget contained significant progress toward building the Town's General Stabilization Fund and Free Cash.

New Police Chief

In March 2014, the Town Manager hired a new police chief after the retirement of former Police Chief George Sherrill. Police Chief David Armstrong, a Holden native, and long-time police lieutenant with the Holden Police Department, was selected based on his excellent credentials, his record of dedication to the Town and the profession of law enforcement, and his strong commitment to the community. The Town welcomes Chief Armstrong and looks forward to his strong leadership being an asset to the residents and law enforcement within Holden and the region.

Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund

Because the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen restructured the Water-Sewer rates, the Water-Sewer Division now operates in the 'black' and has the resources to undertake infrastructure improvements – a program that has been neglected for many years and is now possible due to a well-planned capital improvement program including measures to address Unaccounted for Water. A 12-Step program to reduce Unaccounted for Water has been in effect for two years, and the Town anticipates that this issue is being sufficiently addressed.

Sewer Transport Litigation: Holden v DCR and City of Worcester

Town staff and Special Counsel continued to prosecute this case throughout 2014. The timeline for prosecuting this suit is approximately 2.5 to 3 years. However, should the Town gain a modicum of success, it would result in substantial savings to the

GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOWN MANAGER & BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town through reduced rates for sewer transport through the City of Worcester to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Control Facility in Millbury, Massachusetts.

Conversion of the Dawson Elementary School Heating Systems from Fuel Oil to Natural Gas

The Town has worked with Wachusett Regional School District staff to convert the existing two boilers at Dawson School from fuel oil to natural gas. Permits from the state were obtained to install the necessary high pressure equipment. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the spring of 2015.

Former Police Station

Town Meeting approved the renovation of the old police station into Town offices including those of the Recreation Department. Throughout 2014, work was completed to renovate the building into offices: a new heating system was installed; a solar panel array was installed on the roof of the building; new windows and insulation was added; new entry doors and security hardware; the floors were replaced where necessary and carpeting installed; plumbing was repaired; a studio was installed downstairs in the former garage bay; petitions were removed; the interior was completely repainted; new lighting fixtures were installed; a new phone system was included, as well as interconnectivity to the Town's fiber system; and furnishings were provided for offices.

The Recreation Department moved into the building in December 2014. Programs started immediately in the downstairs studio. The project has been a great success.

Economic Development Committee

Funding has been provided for the Economic Development Committee. At the direction of the Committee, the Town had a presence at the Worcester Business Expo for a third consecutive year. The Committee has been interested in drawing new businesses to Holden. New additions to the business community in 2014 are: expansion of the Sandwich Shop into a sports pub, Kyoto Restaurant has opened a new restaurant on Main Street, the Landmark renovated and moved its offices to a historic building on Main Street, a new Urgent Care Facility, a new restaurant to occupy the former La Busola building in Jefferson, and a gourmet sushi restaurant to open on Main Street.

Winter Festival Committee

The purpose of the Winter Festival Committee is to plan, solicit donations and hold a community event in Holden during the winter season each year. The second event was held in December 2014 and involved citizens, businesses, and organizations. It was very successful and brought together all facets of the Holden community in celebration of the season. The event also promoted the Town's economic development activities and serves to showcase the many assets and resources of Holden.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOWN MANAGER & BOARD OF SELECTMEN

275th Celebration Committee

The Town Manager appointed a 275th Celebration Committee to plan for activities to celebrate the Town's 275th birthday, which will occur in 2016.



Memorial Day Parade

Due to the hard work and dedication of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, the Town held its well received Memorial Day Parade in May 2014. The Spirit of America Band led the parade, which included an Honor Guard from the Holden Police Department, and ROTC color guard from the Montachusett Regional Vocational High School. This event could not have been a success without the support of Holden residents who generously gave of their time and money. Because of your support and enthusiasm, the Holden Memorial Day Parade has become an annual event, supported in part by the many donations of Holden businesses and residents.

Starbard Scholarship

In 2014, the Selectmen awarded two scholarships through the Starbard Scholarship Fund. Kevin Murphy and Meghan Bates, who are both students at universities, are individuals pursuing degrees in government or related fields. Our congratulations and best wishes were added to the scholarship awards with the certainty that these fine students will attain their academic goals.

Inter-Municipal Agreement, Regional Dispatch

In December 2014, the towns of Holden and Princeton went 'live' with a combined system of emergency communications dispatch. The Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center became a reality after several years of hard work and funding support from the towns and State 911. In the fall of 2014, the Selectmen approved an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of West Boylston for that town to join the Wachusett Regional Dispatch Center. We have received a grant from State 911 to fund their study. The combining of West Boylston with the WRECC is expected to take place in 2016.

Employee Appreciation Cookout

In June 2014, the Board of Selectmen, once again, provided an Employee Appreciation Cookout for all town employees at the Trout Brook Recreation Area. The Selectmen and Town Manager also held the employee appreciation ceremony where employees are recognized for their years of service and receive their service pins. It is through our dedicated and talented staff that the Selectmen and Town Manager continue to provide high-quality services to the residents of the Town of Holden.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOWN MANAGER & BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Volunteer Service

The Town Manager and Selectmen could not achieve their goals without the support and service of board and committee volunteers. We encourage any town citizen to participate in their local government by serving on a board or committee of their choice. To get involved, contact the Town Manager's Office at (508) 210-5501 or visit www.holdenma.gov and download a "Do Something" questionnaire to detail your contact information and specific interests.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION 2014 MILESTONES CELEBRATED JULY 1, 2013-JUNE 30, 2014

5 Years

Daniel W. Hazen – Department of Public Works
Derek Hirons – Fire Department
Richard F. McGinn – Fire Department
Russell Hall - Fire Department
Nathan Campaniello – Holden Municipal Light Department
Kate Marie Gervais - Police Department
DeeAnne Grebinar - Recreation Department
Clare M. Nelson - Senior Center
Gary Kaczmarek - Owner's Project Manager/Facilities Manager

10 Years

Adam B. Hickey – Department of Public Works & Fire Department
Joseph R. Kenney – Department of Public Works
Adam T. Perkins – Department of Public Works
Peter C. Lacy – Fire Department
Peter Liddy – Department of Growth Management
Beverly Dinneen - Gale Free Library
Barbara Oberlin - Gale Free Library
Janet L. Bourget - Police Department
Jonathan A. Bourget - Police Department
Johannah L. Adams - Police Department
Ernest Diesslin - Senior Center

15 Years

Daniel J. Deptula – Department of Public Works
Derryl J. Dion - Fire Department
Dennis J. Lipka – Department of Growth Management
Marie Clemente - Recreation Department
Georgianna DeWitt - Recreation Department
Douglas E. Nelson - Information Technology

20 Years

Michael C. Griffin, Holden Municipal Light Department
Lawrence M. Josti, Holden Municipal Light Department

25 Years

Martha J. Grant – Department of Growth Management
David S. Anderson - Police Department

35 Years

Peter W. Bergstrom - Fire Department
Michael Rosen - Fire Department

45 Years

James Oberg – Department of Public Works & Fire Department

GENERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Peter Lukes – Assistant Town Manager/ Department Head

Douglas Nelson – Systems Administrator

Stephen Gross – Network Administrator

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 the Town of Holden's day-to-day operation.

The 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 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 IT Department interacts closely with every department to assess current and future requirements, research the latest advances in technology, perform feasibility analysis, provide information and advice to Holden's decision-makers regarding technical infrastructure investments, assist with vendor negotiations, and monitor contract performance.

User support remains a major function of the IT Department. IT staff install and ensure proper functioning of licensed software, administer multiple servers, install and repair hardware, and manage sophisticated networking and communication systems on a daily basis.

Helen Aronowitz joined the IT team in March 2014 as the new Business Analyst. Helen brings a wealth of private sector experience in business applications and other IT specialties to Holden. She has helped with many projects, including the implementation of the new online permitting system that was launched in July.

In other developments, the Town's website was redesigned and launched anew. It offers better functionality as well as easy navigation and updated appearance. The IT Department also finished a complicated project to relocate a great deal of equipment and upgrade infrastructure to guarantee a continuity of computer operations if the Town faces a natural disaster or catastrophic power outage. This operation included contracting with outside vendors to rearrange our fiber optic network and physically moving/securing sophisticated equipment to sites where there are backup generators and proper HVAC systems. The IT Department also continues to make strides to protect town data from security breaches, malicious computer hackers and accidental loss.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Early in 2014, all town desktop computers were upgraded to a newer version of Windows, as the old Windows XP systems became obsolete. IT staff assisted the Department of Growth Management in the implementation of a new online permitting system. Similar systems are planned for fire permits and other licenses in the next 18 months, eventually creating the ability for Holden residents to conduct virtually all of their business with the Town of Holden from home, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The IT Department continues to keep Holden on the cutting edge by making e-government services a reality. Most recently, the IT staff assisted the Department of Public Works and the Holden Municipal Light Department in the setup and implementation of a new application that will allow residents to use smart phones and similar devices to report issues such as streetlight outages, potholes, or similar requests for assistance. The Town Manager's Office received a three-year grant for funding this new system. It is one more way that Holden town government is making itself more responsive through the use of technology.

Although the larger projects receive the most notoriety, the IT Department continues to work behind the scenes every day, responding to hundreds of desk side assistance calls from our employees throughout the year. In early 2014, IT implemented an internal web-based "ticketing" system in which calls for assistance can be tracked and managed so that technical problems within town departments are addressed and fixed in the timeliest manner possible.

We look forward to more innovations in the coming year. With each technological step forward, we make town government more efficient, responsive and effective.

EDUCATION
WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN, PAXTON, PRINCETON, RUTLAND & STERLING

Letter from WRSD Superintendent Darryll McCall, Ed.D.

The Wachusett Regional School District continues to offer the students and families of the five towns a first-class educational experience for an exceptional value. Currently, the WRSD spends \$11,100 per pupil which makes it one of the lowest cost districts in the state, yet our students continue to be ranked among the top students in all of central Massachusetts.

Unfortunately, as I write this letter, the District is faced with potential unprecedented budget cuts due to the current monetary shortfall at the state level. If passed, the 9C reductions (cuts enacted when a fiscal emergency is imminent), proposed by former Governor Patrick and continued by current Governor Baker, will result in a budget reduction for the District of over \$1.4 million for our current budget (FY15). If the 9C reductions occur, our overall budget for FY15 will be lower than the District's FY14 budget. As it stands, if the proposed 9C reductions do not come to pass, the District will still have only increased the FY15 budget 1.2% over FY14. The fixed costs associated with items such as health care and contractual obligations leave little, if any, new funding to support the educational process.

I have asked our teacher's union to work with me and our School Committee on developing an understanding of what the actual needs are in our District. Technology remains woefully out of date in all of our schools. With the little funds that are directed toward technology, we purchased refurbished computers and continue to maintain our ever aging technology infrastructure. Many of our textbooks have been in use since the last century and are older than the students who currently use them, even at our high school. Curricular materials that were once abundant in the District, including a thriving curriculum library and material center, are now out of date or non-existent. The recent NEASC report for Wachusett Regional High School clearly states that the District needs to better support the school with materials, technology, and staffing.

Working in conjunction with Member Towns, it is my hope that we will be able to support a FY16 budget that represents a reasonable, feasible, and responsible educational plan, spending the taxpayers' dollars wisely. Having created a transparent budget process, I will strive to continue to create a budget that works for the towns without further decimating programs, class size, staffing, and more. Our children deserve a first class education.

Despite the financial challenges, this has been a very good year for WRSD and I remain optimistic about our wonderful students, staff, and families. We must continue to work toward the creation of a comprehensive curricular, technology, and strategic vision for the District. With continued hard work and cooperation between the District and the towns, solutions to these serious educational issues will be found. With your support, I look forward to working with you to continue to put our educational needs at the forefront of our community priorities.

EDUCATION

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Letter from Superintendent-Director Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.

2013-2014 was a year marked by student achievement, faculty and staff distinctions, and leadership development, as well as transition. Compiling information for the enclosed report has provided me with an opportunity to get to know the students, faculty and staff that comprise this wonderful school, and to reflect upon their tremendous achievements and activities. I am fortunate to work closely with a talented leadership team, many of whom have contributed to this report, and given great insight into some of the more notable highlights of the 2013-2014 academic year, including:

- Students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement. In the spring of 2014, Monty Tech's passing rate on the MCAS English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 98%, and Biology 99%.
- Competing in three categories: network security, digital forensics, and Cisco networking, a team of six talented students captured second place at the CyberPatriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association.
- Class of 2014 graduate Jessica Shattuck of Fitchburg was presented with the Legion of Valor award, the highest award a JROTC cadet may receive, recognizing academic excellence and extraordinary leadership skills.
- Ten students advanced through local, district and state competitions to earn the right to compete at the National SkillsUSA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Monty Tech national delegation returned with a bronze medal in Action Skills.
- Monty Tech continues to participate in the highly selective Student Spaceflight Experiment Program, representing the only vocational school in the nation to have a student science experiment launch into space, and providing students with an opportunity to study the effects of gravity on their science project.

As you know, a Monty Tech education is grounded in workforce preparedness, balanced by a rigorous academic curriculum. Everyday at Monty Tech, one guiding principle is evident - our students must be ready for both college and career. Students are prepared with industry-recognized credentials and skills to be successful in the world of work. And for those students whose future may include higher education, Monty Tech offers dual enrollment courses, articulation agreements, and Advanced Placement courses that may significantly reduce the amount of time and money spent on a college education.

We are so proud of the educational programs offered here at Monty Tech, yet we continually strive to improve upon them. Collaborating with area colleges and universities, we are ensuring our curriculum and instruction is rigorous and relevant. Sharing best practices with vocational-technical colleagues from across the state – and

EDUCATION

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

nation – we give and take some of the best ideas, with one thing in mind – what is best for our students.

We hope you will find this report a comprehensive review of the quality education you have come to know and expect from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. You may notice that each of the eighteen member cities and towns are reflected in this report, and that students performed services in almost every community last year. Providing our students with an opportunity to give back to the communities that support them – and support our school – is a pleasure.

I am honored to serve as Superintendent-Director of Monty Tech, a school that continues to transform secondary education in North Central Massachusetts, bringing to life lessons learned in a classroom, at the workplace, and in the community – all while consistently maintaining high standards of fiscal responsibility. Our FY14 Annual Budget was unanimously accepted by each of the eighteen member communities, and reflected only a 2.0% increase over the 2012-2013 Educational Plan. We recognize that we are in the midst of some difficult economic times faced by public education and so we will continue to seek creative ways to reduce member town assessments, while maintaining our high standards of academic and vocational-technical success.

Our Mission

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

Our District

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of: Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Barre, Fitchburg, Gardner, Harvard, Holden, Hubbardston, Lunenburg, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Sterling, Templeton, Westminster, Winchendon.

EDUCATION MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Leadership

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the superintendent and principal, the team has been able to transform the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts:

Sheila M. Harrity, Superintendent-Director
Tom Browne, Principal
Tammy Crockett, Business Manager
Kim Curry, Dean of Admissions
Francine Duncan, Director of Technology
Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs
Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs
Richard Ikonen, Director of Facilities
Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator
Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services

Enrollment

On June 1, 2014, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,403 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district: Ashburnham (54), Ashby (37), Athol (93), Barre (35), Fitchburg (364), Gardner (158), Harvard (3), Holden (68), Hubbardston (61), Lunenburg (70), Petersham (4), Phillipston (21), Princeton (17), Royalston (22), Sterling (56), Templeton (100), Westminster (77), and Winchendon (133). The remaining 30 students were from out-of-district towns, including Clinton, Leominster, Natick, Orange, Pepperell, Rutland, Shirley, West Boylston, and Worcester.

Throughout 2013-2014, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2013, approximately 1,000 district eighth graders participated in the annual "Tour Day" event. Students toured our 20-vocational/technical areas and learned about the school's challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return in the evening with their family members, to further explore the facilities and talk with staff members.

Each year, the Dean of Admissions conducts school visits, student interviews, and accepts applications for admissions. 2013-2014 proved to be an exceptionally busy year for her, as the school received 730 applications for admission. Of those, 642 were from students hoping to enter our incoming freshman class. The balance of the applications came from students hoping to enter the school as upperclassmen.

EDUCATION

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Because there are only a limited number of students the school can accept each year, 367 freshmen and 19 upperclassmen were admitted.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) offers area seventh and eighth grade students the chance to visit Monty Tech after school, and participate in hands-on learning experiences across a variety of vocational/technical areas. The program continued to attract a large number of students during the 2013-2014 school year, serving approximately 600 area students.

Class of 2014 Awards

Members of the Class of 2014 were awarded approximately \$50,000 in scholarships. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$34,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$250 to \$2,500. The Foundation also awarded \$6,000 to the practical nursing graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves, are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. More than 60% of the graduating class of 2014 reported plans to enroll at either a 2-year college, 4-year college/university, or a technical/trade school upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will benefit by saving both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

Financial Report

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration and staff. The final fiscal year 2013-2014 Educational Plan totaled \$24,785,280 which represents a 2.0% increase over the 2012-2013 Educational Plan. As a result of changes to the final FY14 State budget and the District's decision not to increase the already-approved community assessments, the District's FY14 budget was approximately \$200,000 below the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70.

The District was audited in August 2014 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, Mass. and a very good report is anticipated.

EDUCATION

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Grants and Contracts

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds assist in providing many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2014, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$842,780. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Social Intervention and Mediation, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, and Summer Academic Support.

In addition to state and federal grant sources, Monty Tech was also the recipient of private and competitive grant awards totaling \$525,000. Included in that total are a number of highly competitive awards, including a \$400,000 award from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, used to provide training in the new vocational-technical education frameworks to more than 350 educators across the Commonwealth, and a \$42,500 award from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, used to purchase one adult patient simulator, which will provide our Health Occupations students with unprecedented training opportunities, as the device manifests vital signs, clinical signs and symptoms. Allocation and competitive grants totaled \$1,367,780 for Fiscal Year 2014.

Academic Achievement

In 2013-2014, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable MCAS scores in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Biology. In the spring of 2014, Monty Tech's passing rate on the English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 98%, and Biology 99%.

EDUCATION MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

English Language Arts	2012	2013	2014
Students Tested	361	352	364
Passing	100%	99%	100%
Advanced/ Proficient	95%	95%	95%
Needs Improvement	5%	5%	5%
Failing	0%	1%	0%

Mathematics	2012	2013	2014
Students Tested	360	352	366
Passing	99%	98%	98%
Advanced/Proficient	87%	80%	84%
Needs Improvement	12%	18%	14%
Failing	1%	2%	2%

Biology	2012	2013	2014
Students Tested	361	398	351
Passing	98%	97%	99%
Advanced/ Proficient	73%	73%	74%
Needs Improvement	24%	24%	25%
Failing	2%	3%	1%

The district continues to make progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps. Students in all subgroups have met their progress and performance targets, continuing the school's Level 1 Status distinction.

Student Group	On Target = 75 or higher	Performance	Progress
All Students	<div><div></div></div>	81	Met Target
High Needs	<div><div></div></div>	79	Met Target
Low Income	<div><div></div></div>	84	Met Target
ELL and Former ELL	<div><div></div></div>	-	-
Students with Disabilities	<div><div></div></div>	81	Met Target
American Indian/ Alaska Native	<div><div></div></div>	-	-
Asian	<div><div></div></div>	-	-
African/American/Black	<div><div></div></div>	-	-
Hispanic/ Latino	<div><div></div></div>	93	Met Target
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	<div><div></div></div>	-	-
White	<div><div></div></div>	84	Met Target

FINANCE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Lori Rose – Town Accountant
Carolyn Ringgard – Accounts Keeper

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 Board (UMAS) as promulgated by the state of Massachusetts and the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue. The method of accounting used 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.

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; 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 Holden Municipal Light Department activity.

The purchase order program encumbers funds by subtracting them from the budget and reducing the available balance. Approximately 560 purchase orders are issued annually. 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 14,600 invoices processed in fiscal 2014, resulting in more than 6,500 vendor checks being issued.

2014 Highlights

Projects such as the Mountview Middle School feasibility study, the design and development phase of the middle school construction project, state grants awarded for public safety functions such as police 911 grants, and the development grant for regionalized dispatch, resulted in an increased number of contracts, purchase orders, accounts payable warrants for processing, and increased reporting requirements.

The Mountview Middle School Building project has also resulted in new requirements for the accounting office. For all phases of the Mountview project, we are responsible for all our normal processing and retention requirements, and also for submitting all costs incurred into the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) web based

FINANCE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

“pay-as-you-build progress payment system” known as ProPay. All costs must be entered by budget category and backup documentation must be submitted to MSBA for review before reimbursement can be made. The MSBA audits the invoices submitted and reimburses the Town for its share of eligible project costs. This is a benefit to the Town as we do not have to borrow the MSBA’s share of the project which reduces the amount of debt, interest and borrowing costs of the Town. Due to the large volume and the dollar amount of expenditures relating to this project, requests for reimbursement are prepared on a monthly basis. During FY2014 a total of twelve reimbursement requests were submitted to MSBA resulting in the receipt of \$1,845,734 as of June 30, 2014.

In preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2014, 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 25 percent of free cash will be set aside for appropriation to the stabilization fund and only one half of the remaining amount will be used to fund operating expenses. Prior to this 2012 policy, all free cash was utilized to offset the operating expenses in the next fiscal year. This new policy allows the Town to continue building reserves, provides for decreases in revenue in following years, and keeps a small 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 percent of our budget as an investment in our assets and infrastructure.

The Town’s free cash was certified on October 30, 2014 and the “Schedule A” state filing was completed and submitted before the November 30 deadline. The Fiscal Year 2014 annual audit has been completed.

Audited financial statements are available at any time by visiting the Town Accountant’s web page at www.holdenma.gov or by contacting the Accounting Office. The financial statements included in this report are unaudited for the year ending June 30, 2014.

**FINANCE
TOWN ACCOUNTANT
BUDGET RECAP – JUNE 30, 2014**

	BUDGET	TRNF IN	TRNF OUT	BUDGET	EXPENDED
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Salary and Wages	\$1,414,389	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,414,389	\$1,211,592
Expenditure	3,436,654	-	150,000	3,286,654	3,164,470
Capital	21,810	-	-	21,810	697
Total	4,872,853	-	150,000	4,722,853	4,376,759
DEBT					
Municipal	811,140	-	-	811,140	811,139
School	2,906,466	-	-	2,906,466	2,906,369
Total	3,717,606	-	-	3,717,606	3,717,508
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Salary and Wages	3,650,860	-	-	3,650,860	3,572,247
Expenditure	735,000	-	-	735,000	698,209
Capital Outlay	174,500	-	-	174,500	168,778
Total	4,560,360	-	-	4,560,360	4,439,234
PUBLIC WORKS					
Salary and Wages	1,403,584	-	-	1,403,584	1,355,683
Expenditure	823,950	-	3,594	820,356	645,332
Capital Outlay	961,500	-	-	961,500	773,800
Snow Removal	375,000	153,594	-	528,594	528,594
Total	3,564,034	153,594	3,594	3,714,034	3,303,409

	BUDGET	TRNF IN	TRNF OUT	BUDGET	EXPENDED
HUMAN SERVICES					
Salary and Wages	227,471	-	-	227,471	222,930
Expenditure	86,850	-	-	86,850	76,371
Capital Outlay	6,250	-	-	6,250	6,194
Total	320,571	-	-	320,571	305,495
EDUCATION					
WRSD	20,675,362	-	-	20,675,362	20,675,351
WRSD Trans	1,205,104	-	-	1,205,104	1,205,104
VOC	578,847	-	-	578,847	578,847
Total	22,459,313	-	-	22,459,313	22,459,302
CULTURE					
Salary and Wages	551,013	-	-	551,013	550,274
Expenditure	235,523	-	-	235,523	234,803
Capital Outlay	38,500	-	-	38,500	1,291
Total	825,036	-	-	825,036	786,368
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	40,319,773	153,594	153,594	40,319,773	39,388,075
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND					
Salary and Wages	537,604	-	-	537,604	509,488
Expenditure	5,273,194	-	15,033	5,258,161	4,652,719
Capital Outlay	490,000	15,033	-	505,033	505,033
TOTAL WATER/SEWER	6,300,798	15,033	15,033	6,300,798	5,667,240

	BUDGET	TRNF IN	TRNF OUT	BUDGET	EXPENDED
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND					
Salary and Wages	42,925	-	-	42,925	34,070
Expenditure	<u>1,109,618</u>	-	-	<u>1,109,618</u>	<u>1,050,752</u>
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	<u>1,152,543</u>	-	-	<u>1,152,543</u>	<u>1,084,822</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	<u>\$47,773,114</u>	<u>\$168,627</u>	<u>\$168,627</u>	<u>\$47,773,114</u>	<u>\$46,140,137</u>

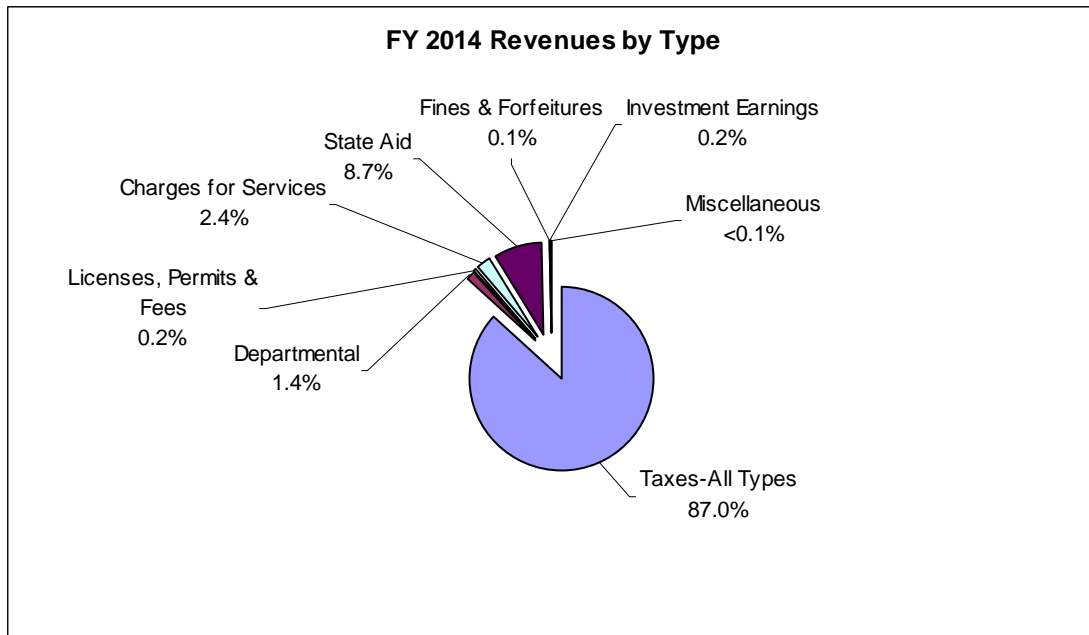
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2014

FINANCE TOWN ACCOUNTANT REVENUE COMPARISON

GENERAL FUND NET OF REFUNDS

REVENUE SOURCE	FY14 ESTIMATE	FY14 ACTUAL	FY15 ESTIMATE
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,425,894	\$ 2,050,000
PENALTIES/INTEREST	107,000	164,245	115,000
LIEU OF TAX	1,024,845	1,026,433	1,026,465
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	675,000	993,830	800,000
FEES	151,215	233,065	154,050
RENTALS	93,788	93,910	95,600
LIBRARY	15,000	22,085	22,500
CEMETERY	3,000	15,993	13,000
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL	41,209	61,853	45,250
LICENSES/PERMITS	96,200	102,665	81,400
FINES	40,000	57,693	47,000
INVESTMENT INCOME	60,000	65,288	60,000
MISC RECURRING	129,200	153,300	184,200
MISC NON-RECURRING	35,000	248,240	50,000
SEPTIC	2,686	2,436	2,686
TOTAL LOCAL	4,474,143	5,666,930	4,747,151
CHERRY SHEET	1,822,139	1,825,859	1,879,204
SBAB	1,870,996	1,870,996	1,870,996
TAXES	32,944,756	32,455,141	34,122,107
TAXES PRIOR YEARS	-	220,944	-
TAX LIENS	-	150,686	-
CONVEYANCE TAX	-	19,693	-
TAX LITIGATION	-	-	-
LIGHT DEPT	133,955	133,955	137,304
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	36,771,846	36,677,274	38,009,611
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$ 41,245,989	\$ 42,344,204	\$ 42,756,762

FINANCE TOWN ACCOUNTANT REVENUE COMPARISON



FINANCE TOWN ACCOUNTANT FREE CASH

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

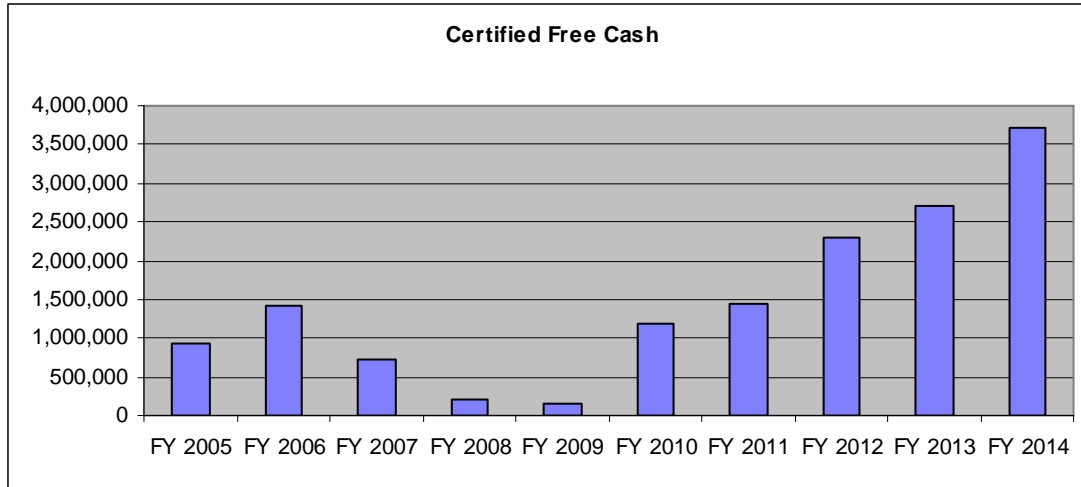
The available amount is calculated and certified each year by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue based upon the balance sheet submitted by the town accountant.

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.

Approximately 71 percent of the Free Cash certified as of June 30, 2013 was left unappropriated and is now part of the Free Cash certified as of June 30, 2014. For the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, free cash was appropriated into the following stabilization funds: \$50,000 into the Department of Public Works Depreciation Fund, \$58,652 into the fire equipment stabilization fund and \$677,860 into the general stabilization fund. We did not use any free cash to reduce the tax rate.

		Certified		Used
Fiscal 2015				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		216,851
Fiscal 2009		162,788		550,000
Fiscal 2008		216,851		1,408,676
Fiscal 2007		728,081		921,747
Fiscal 2006		1,428,676		609,681
Fiscal 2005		921,747		462,499

**FINANCE
TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FREE CASH**



FIVE YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS – TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

	ACTUAL FY 2010	ACTUAL FY 2011	ACTUAL FY 2012	ACTUAL FY 2013	ACTUAL FY 2014
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Salary and Wages	\$1,272,821	\$1,239,786	\$1,280,839	\$1,266,396	\$1,211,592
Expense	2,678,538	2,809,355	2,960,540	2,959,223	3,164,470
Capital Outlay	-	-	26,647	1,505	697
Total	3,951,359	4,049,141	4,268,026	4,227,124	4,376,759
DEBT RETIREMENT					
Municipal	502,947	664,127	714,056	845,064	811,139
School	2,803,839	2,809,664	2,814,849	2,884,156	2,906,369
Total	3,306,786	3,473,791	3,528,905	3,729,220	3,717,508
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Salary and Wages	3,123,046	3,312,941	3,369,632	3,468,893	3,572,247
Expense	563,906	623,221	634,516	687,493	698,209
Capital Outlay	187,844	299,993	173,177	96,094	168,778
Total	3,874,796	4,236,155	4,177,325	4,252,480	4,439,234
PUBLIC WORKS					
Salary and Wages	1,159,634	1,105,519	1,288,259	1,319,925	1,355,683
Expense	647,685	709,732	646,285	769,832	645,332
Capital Outlay	199,805	211,013	435,775	519,016	773,800
Snow Removal	370,497	359,534	257,342	513,175	528,594
Total	2,377,621	2,385,798	2,627,661	3,121,948	3,303,409

**HUMAN
SERVICES**

Salary and Wages	186,153	198,809	210,990	214,001	222,930
Expense	52,967	77,297	104,971	64,990	76,371
Capital Outlay	12,629	-	-	-	6,194
Total	251,749	276,106	315,961	278,991	305,495

EDUCATION

WRSD					
Assessment	18,841,026	19,171,585	19,503,302	20,491,124	20,675,351
WRSD					
Transportation	914,069	982,592	1,281,451	1,247,060	1,205,104
Vocational Ed	642,349	476,564	465,097	543,688	578,847
Total	20,397,444	20,630,741	21,249,850	22,281,872	22,459,302

CULTURE

Salary and Wages	528,250	521,582	529,809	539,341	550,274
Expense	187,642	201,405	218,391	198,291	234,803
Capital Outlay	6,856	1,833	44,917	8,311	1,291
Total	722,748	724,820	793,117	745,943	786,368

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	34,882,503	35,776,552	36,960,845	38,637,578	39,388,075
-------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

**WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND (FUNDED FROM
RATES AND NOT TAXES)**

Salary and Wages	512,296	524,562	493,340	513,114	509,488
Expense	4,291,462	4,553,511	4,767,323	4,911,721	4,652,719
Capital Outlay	-	-	91,837	243,762	505,033

TOTAL WATER/SEWER	4,803,758	5,078,073	5,352,500	5,668,597	5,667,240
------------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

**SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND (FUNDED FROM FEES
AND NOT TAXES)**

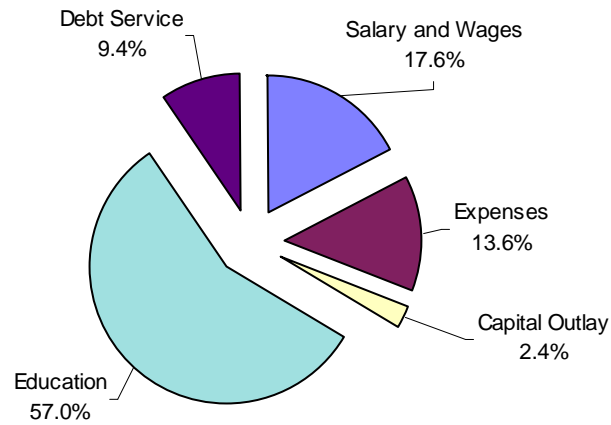
Salary and Wages	35,897	32,812	45,752	37,471	34,070
Expense	923,772	978,370	1,004,126	986,515	1,050,752
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	959,669	1,011,182	1,049,878	1,023,986	1,084,822
TOTAL BUDGET	40,645,930	41,865,807	43,363,223	45,330,161	46,140,137

**DEBT RETIRED
BY IIF**

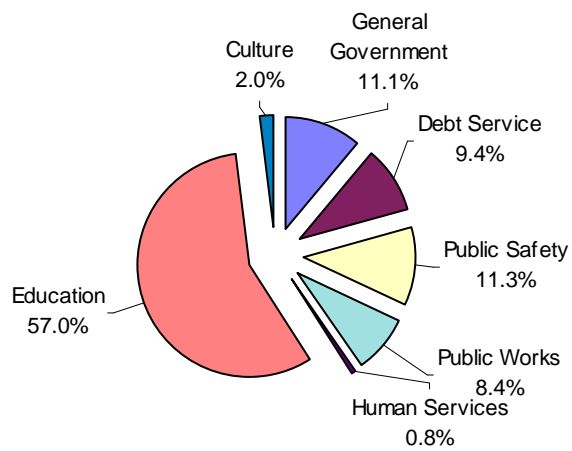
Municipal	\$563,653	\$591,553	\$540,943	\$541,053	\$544,449
School	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$563,653	\$591,553	\$540,943	\$541,053	\$544,449

FINANCE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

FY 2014 Operational Expenditures by Type



FY 2014 Operational Expenditures by Department



**FINANCE
TOWN ACCOUNTANT
BUDGET ESTIMATES FY15**

	FY2015 BUDGET	EXPENDED AS OF 12/31/2014	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Salary and Wages	\$1,473,123	\$661,233	\$1,454,448
Expenditure	3,681,761	2,152,957	3,593,651
Capital Outlay	10,000	-	10,000
Total	5,164,884	2,814,190	5,058,099
DEBT			
Municipal	818,541	251,768	818,541
School	3,063,307	449,836	2,939,338
Total	3,881,848	701,604	3,757,879
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Salary and Wages	3,800,620	1,714,650	3,800,620
Expenditure	738,013	270,150	738,013
Capital Outlay	566,500	122,467	566,500
Total	5,105,133	2,107,267	5,105,133
PUBLIC WORKS			
Salary and Wages	1,412,638	664,917	1,412,638
Expenditure	817,233	108,824	767,775
Capital Outlay	1,157,500	456,596	1,157,500
Snow Removal	450,000	170,233	450,000
Total	3,837,371	1,400,570	3,787,913
HUMAN SERVICES			
Salary and Wages	256,901	108,660	227,341
Expenditure	88,450	34,349	87,950

Capital Outlay	20,000	7,775	20,000
Total	365,351	150,784	335,291
EDUCATION			
WRSD	21,165,571	10,516,855	21,033,710
WRSD Trans	1,285,658	449,129	898,258
VOC	796,215	386,605	796,215
Total	23,247,444	11,352,589	22,728,183
CULTURE			
Salary and Wages	568,650	260,284	568,650
Expenditure	239,943	121,338	239,164
Capital Outlay	42,000	-	42,000
Total	850,593	381,622	849,814
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	42,452,624	18,908,626	41,622,312
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND			
Salary and Wages	574,370	246,420	553,951
Expenditure	5,613,220	2,680,588	5,399,400
Capital Outlay	397,500	8,683	397,500
TOTAL WATER/SEWER	6,585,090	2,935,691	6,350,851
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND			
Salary and Wages	45,608	10,802	45,483
Expenditure	1,101,815	512,872	1,098,240
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,147,423	523,674	1,143,723
TOTAL BUDGET	\$50,185,137	\$22,367,991	\$49,116,886

FINANCE TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Sharon A. Lowder - Treasurer/Collector, CMMT, CMMC

Sandra E. Nason - Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Jennifer J. Keevan - Senior Accounts Clerk

Teresa Brown - Senior Accounts Clerk (Hired September 2014)

Kristen Gelinas-Sullivan - Senior Accounts Clerk (Resigned August 2014)

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 our office or to a lockbox. Holden residents can also remit their payments in person at the Collector's Office, as well as online.

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. The Collector's Office completed 560 Municipal Lien Certificates in FY 2014. A Certificate for Dissolving Betterments is created to release a Betterment Lien from a town property. The remaining liens were placed on properties eligible for the Town of Holden Sewer project in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the MDC), which provided sewer access to more than 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. The Collector's Office prepared 63 Certificates for Dissolving Betterments in FY 2014.

The 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 also 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.

FINANCE TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Massachusetts Treasurer/Collector Certification

Assistant Treasurer/Collector Sandra Nason attended the annual school sponsored by the Massachusetts Treasurer/Collector's Association at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Sandy continues to take the required classes necessary to be certified as an Assistant Treasurer/Collector.

Treasurer/Collector Sharon Lowder attended an MCTA conference in June to maintain certification as a Massachusetts Certified Treasurer/Collector as continuing education is required.

Long-Term Debt Refunding

The Treasurer is also responsible for borrowing funds for various town projects authorized at the Annual Town Meeting. This process involves working with the Town's 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.

In December 2014, the Town of Holden refunded debt service from 2002 and 2005 for the elementary schools, the municipal pool and two water projects at a net interest rate of 1.109%. The refinancing will generate total savings of approximately \$1,345,670. The Town must share a significant portion of these savings with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts School Building Authority, but Holden's net savings over the remaining life of the bonds is estimated at \$645,000.

Mountview School Construction

In April 2013, voters authorized the replacement of the Mountview Middle School and the borrowing to fund the construction. The second borrowing in the amount of a \$10,500,000 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) was completed in June at a coupon rate of 1% for the continuing cash flow needs of the project. The Treasurer will borrow additional funds to finance the Mountview Middle School Project in June of 2015.

Online Payments

The Holden Municipal Light Department has been continuing to expand the utility online payments for Holden residents. The Department of Growth Management has instituted an online permitting system, which includes a process for online payments for the permits. The Town Clerk and the Recreation Department also continue to collect payments online. With so many payment options available, the office is constantly developing more efficient methods of reconciliation and reporting these funds on a daily basis.

FINANCE

TOWN TREASURER REPORT

7/1/2013-6/30/2014

Cash on Hand July 1,
2013

16,047,988.48

RECEIPTS GENERAL FUNDS

Accounting	Departmental	14,500.00
	Reimbursements	
Assessors	Miscellaneous	85.00
Buildings & Grounds	Miscellaneous	16,332.50
	Departmental	25,000.00
	Reimbursements	
	Rental – Town Buildings	14,100.00
Commonwealth of Mass	CDC Fines	4,522.50
	DCR Lieu of Taxes	900,837.55
	Mass Health Ambulance	14,123.61
	Receipts	
	Registry Motor Vehicle Fees	49,967.50
	Reimb - RE Tax	61,657.00
	Exemptions	
	Reimb – MVE Exempt – Dis	1,304.00
	Vets	
	Election Reimbursement	9,976.00
	Fire HAZMAT	4,806.20
	School Construction	1,870,996.00
	Reimburse	
	State-Owned Land	79,045.00
	Unrestricted State Aid	1,655,359.00
	Urban Redevelopment	47,575.00
	Veterans Benefits	34,357.00
Data Processing	Departmental	41,500.00
	Reimbursements	
	Miscellaneous Refund	344.68
Dept. of Public Works	Miscellaneous	95,295.01
	Departmental	17,000.00
	Reimbursements	
Fire Dept.	Miscellaneous	24,314.64
	Ambulance Receipts	865,711.22
	Ambulance Medicare	121,548.11
	Fire Private Duty Surcharge	212.80
	IOD Reimbursement	14,943.96
Growth Management	Miscellaneous	34,601.67
Library	Miscellaneous	22,249.05
Miscellaneous Receipts	Interest Earnings	65,287.98
	Light Dept. Lieu Taxes	133,955.00
	Proceeds of Investment	671,878.39

	Miscellaneous	4,960.13
	WRSD School Lease Fees	78,555.00
Police Department	Miscellaneous	22,514.47
	WRSD Liaison Officer	35,000.00
	Police Private Duty	5,994.60
	Surcharge	
Sealer Weights & Measure	Miscellaneous	3,222.00
Selectmen	Miscellaneous	19,808.50
Senior Citizens	Senior Citizens	49,922.70
	Transportation	
Town Clerk	Miscellaneous	63,126.05
Town Collector	Charges & Interest - Taxes	58,139.44
	Charges & Interest – MVE	67,656.01
	City of Worcester Lieu of Taxes	75,407.33
	Holden Housing Lieu Tax	2,613.12
	Motor Vehicle 1984-2011	4,433.77
	Motor Vehicle – 2012	12,070.45
	Motor Vehicle – 2013	433,734.86
	Motor Vehicle – 2014	2,024,613.60
	Personal Property – 2013	2,979.01
	Personal Property – 2014	416,993.59
	Rollback Tax	19,693.36
	Real Estate – 2013	217,990.75
	Real Estate – 2014	32,090,490.75
	Supplemental Real Est. – 2013	29,863.99
	Supplemental Real Est. – 2014	86,132.32
Town Manager	Miscellaneous	872.88
	Departmental Reimbursements	22,000.00
Treasurer	Miscellaneous	11,892.11
	Departmental Reimbursements	33,300.00
	Certificates of Municipal Liens	28,000.00
	Priv Duty Surcharge & Medicare	7,648.46
	Tax Title & Interest	189,500.97
U S Treasurer	FEMA Reimbursements	64,047.62
	Total General Funds	<u>43,096,564.21</u>
Commonwealth of Mass	Chapter 90 Reimbursement	<u>34,150.64</u>
	Total Highway Improvements	<u>34,150.64</u>

CABLE TV FUND

Cable TV	CATV Annual Grant	257,890.05
	Total Cable TV Fund	<u>257,890.05</u>
Recreation Department	Miscellaneous	288,026.74
	Interest Earned	<u>128.99</u>
	Total Recreation 53D	<u>288,155.73</u>
Town Collector	Septic Loans & Committed Int.	<u>2,436.12</u>
	Total Septic Loans	<u>2,436.12</u>
Various Departments	Insurance Recovery	<u>22,804.31</u>
	Total Revolving Funds	<u>22,804.31</u>

**INSPECTIONS
REVOLVING**

Growth Management	Miscellaneous	<u>261,929.25</u>
	Total Inspections Revolving	<u>261,929.25</u>
Recreation	Miscellaneous	445,851.46
	Total Recreation Fund	<u>445,851.46</u>
Buildings & Grounds	Cemetery – Res. for Approp.	4,016.91
Commonwealth of Mass.	Arts Lottery Council	4,530.00
	CERT Grant	7,500.00
	DCR Tree Grant	20,000.00
	Elder Affairs	28,672.00
	Emergency Preparedness	6,343.61
	FEMA Fire Dept Grant	4,030.00
	Fire SAFE Grant	7,704.00
	Police 911 Grant	140,711.20
	Police Training Grant	2,224.86

	State Aid to Libraries	25,121.61
Conservation Commission	Miscellaneous	8,090.00
Dept. of Public Works	Fuel Reimbursement	9,874.26
Fire Department	Ambulance Fund	50.00
	Fire Dept Fund	100.00
	Miscellaneous	100.00
Library	Special Gifts	134,181.30
Miscellaneous	Bond Premium	65,415.00
	Holden 250 th	2,238.35
	Interest Earned	17.30
Payroll Deductions	Selectmen Fund	70.00
Police Department	Law Enforcement Trust	428.00
	DARE Donation	25.00
	Training Grant	4,792.31
Senior Citizens	Council on Aging Fund	7,879.57
	Help at Home	18,062.41
Town Manager	Memorial Day Donations	5,041.50
	Winter Festival Donations	3,172.02
	Total Special Revenue	<u>510,391.21</u>
Miscellaneous	Bond Anticipation Notes	10,500,000.00
	School Construction Reimb	1,514,138.00
	School Const. Reimb (Feas Study)	<u>32,920.00</u>
	Total Mountview Schl Building	<u>12,047,058.00</u>
Town Collector	Connection Loan – 2013	597.80
	Connection Loan – 2014	44,289.54
	Connection Loan Pd in Advance	10,962.00
	Sewer Assessment – 2013	3,859.25
	Sewer Assessment – 2014	263,901.41
	Sewer Assessment Pd in Adv	<u>92,635.32</u>
	Total Sewer Project	<u>416,245.32</u>
Dept. of Public Works	Miscellaneous	373,512.80
	Water Connection Deposits	362,000.00
Town Collector	Rates	5,566,695.48
	Water Liens & Charges – 2013	2,273.25
	Water Lien & Charges – 2014	<u>3,252.89</u>

	Total Water/Sewer	<u>6,307,734.42</u>
Light Department	Miscellaneous	425,783.27
Misc. Receipts	Interest Earned	61.44
	Interest on Investment	12,576.69
	Proceeds of Invest – Lt.	917,536.00
	Deprec.	
	Worker’s Comp Ins Reimb	20,166.18
Town Collector	Light Lien – 2013	1,031.96
	Light Lien – 2014	1,010.49
	Light Meter Deposits	68,625.00
	Misc. Receivables	48,082.84
	Rates	<u>13,776,157.51</u>
	Total Light Funds	<u>15,271,031.38</u>

SOLID WASTE FUND

Growth Management	Trash Bag Sales & Misc SW	16,958.71
Misc. Receipts	Interest Earned	1,476.92
Town Collector	Trash Fees	1,113,369.21
	Trash Lien – 2013	163.64
	Trash Lien – 2014	<u>1,031.96</u>
	Total Solid Waste	<u>1,133,000.44</u>

Misc. Receipts	Investment Earnings	<u>14,372.80</u>
	Total General Stabilization	<u>14,372.80</u>

Misc. Receipts	Investment Earnings	<u>1,015.22</u>
	Total Water/Sewer Stabilization	<u>1,015.22</u>

Buildings & Grounds	Cemetery Funds	8,043.09
Misc. Receipts	Wachusett Fund	42,619.00
	Investment Earnings	<u>11,389.62</u>
	Total Trust Funds	<u>62,051.71</u>

Misc. Receipts	Investment Earnings	<u>5,089.12</u>
----------------	---------------------	-----------------

	Total DPW Depreciation Fund	<u>5,089.12</u>
Misc. Receipts	Investment Earnings	<u>210.67</u>
	Total Conservation Fund	<u>210.67</u>
Misc. Receipts	Investment Earnings	<u>4,472.03</u>
	Total Fire Stabilization Fund	<u>4,472.03</u>
Misc. Receipts	Investment Earnings	<u>13,272.89</u>
	Total Infrastructure Invest Fund	<u>13,272.89</u>
Department of Public Works	Security Deposits	205,655.97
Fire Department	Fire Private Duty	7,264.00
Growth Management	Security Deposit	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	Retirees Life Ins Payments	2,870.86
	Retirees Health Ins Payments	173,960.00
	Retirees Ins Reimbursements	28,392.26
	Interest Earned	1,065.67
Payroll Deductions	Federal Tax	1,094,991.50
	State Tax	436,820.38
	Medicare	113,584.30
	OBRA Mandatory Retire	41,588.75
	Regional Retirement	761,754.42
	Health Insurance	288,772.84
	Basic Life Insurance	4,119.06
	Voluntary Life Ins	6,924.68
	Whole Life Insurance	10,201.46
	Disability Insurance	23,003.58
	Flexible Spending Acct – Health	76,847.56
	Flexible Spending Acct – DCAP	7,400.00
	Union Dues	40,859.00
	Tax-Deferred Compensation	249,561.43
	Family Services	23,228.00

Police Department	Police Firearms	23,568.75	
	Police Private Duty	180,167.75	
Treasurer	Exchange Account	75.00	
	Total Agency Funds	4,158,993.10	
	TOTAL RECEIPTS ALL FUNDS		84,036,957.78
Total Available Cash			100,084,946.26
On Town Manager's Warrants			76,960,384.18
Cash on Hand June 30, 2014			23,124,562.08

TAX TITLES			
Outstanding July 1, 2013	762,841.70		
Added to Tax Title during FY2014	<u>142,158.45</u>		<u>905,000.15</u>
Payments to Treasurer	151,038.08		
Outstanding June 30, 2013	<u>753,962.07</u>		<u>905,000.15</u>

TRUST FUNDS IN THE HANDS OF THE TREASURER				
---	--	--	--	--

FUND	Balance 7/1/13	Interest/ Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance 6/30/14
Cemetery Funds				
Perpetual Care	571,530.29	13,580.13	8,000.00	577,110.42
Chapel Fund	11,051.99	107.53		11,159.52
Cook Fund	9,232.86	89.80		9,322.66
Special Care	18,846.83	182.83	72.76	18,956.90
Hamil Fund	14,646.28	142.49		14,788.77
Anderson Fund	13,289.74	129.31		13,419.05
Miscellaneous Funds				
Pension Funds	152,113.13	1,479.87		153,593.00
Lloyd Starbard	18,401.69	168.25	1,200.00	17,369.94
Welcome Aldrich	14,351.75	4,576.88		18,928.63
Worc Comm	5,187.43	50.46		5,237.89
Boulder Conservation Comm.	21,653.88	210.67		21,864.55
Hendricks House	8,537.89	83.07		8,620.96
Wachusett Fund	165,639.46	44,057.66	25,000.00	184,697.12
Newell Hospital Fund	21,374.44	207.95		21,582.39
B. Gilman Rec Trust	41,186.77	400.69		41,587.46
DPW Depreciation	351,295.23	204,331.42	49,200.00	506,426.65
Fire Stabilization Fund	156,401.06	296,872.03	42,400.00	410,873.09
Water/Sewer Stabiliz	104,364.14	1,015.22		105,379.36
Light Depreciation	1,374,776.80	750,406.69	917,536.00	1,207,647.49
General Stabilization	680,399.65	764,372.80		1,444,772.45
Library Funds				
E. Horsfall	8,638.15	84.04		8,722.19
C. E. Smith	11,848.69	115.27		11,963.96
William Sargent	3,183.97	30.99		3,214.96
S.T. & A. M. Hobbs	10,138.00	98.61		10,236.61
Holden High School	15,602.83	151.80		15,754.63
Ellen Bascom	3,043.66	29.64		3,073.30
Nathan Howe	19,080.66	185.65		19,266.31
E. Phelps Johnson	17,240.50	167.74		17,408.24
B. S. Newell	13,080.46	127.28		13,207.74
Frances Jennings	2,467.98	24.03		2,492.01
Elizabeth Newell	6,025.94	47.02	1,329.13	4,743.83
Rfrnce				
C.& J. Kaplan Trust	15,143.15	145.64	227.50	15,061.29

FINANCE TOWN TREASURER REPORT – FUNDED DEBT

FUNDED DEBT

Project	Date of Issue	Interest Rate	Total Issued	Balance as of 6/30/14	Principal Due in FY15	Date of Maturity
---------	---------------	---------------	--------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	------------------

GENERAL FUND DEBT - *Conventional Loans*

Elementary School Bldgs (Refunded)	12/01/05	4.118%	\$33,000,000	\$14,135,000	\$2,130,000	03/01/20
Elementary School Buildings	10/15/02	3.602%	\$920,000	\$405,000	\$60,000	10/15/19
Municipal Pool	10/15/02	3.418%	\$2,500,000	\$840,000	\$195,000	10/15/17
Public Safety Building #1	05/15/08	3.856%	\$8,000,000	\$6,250,000	\$335,000	05/15/28
Public Safety Building #2	04/15/10	3.719%	\$5,000,000	\$4,305,000	\$195,000	04/15/30
Public Safety Building #3	03/02/12	2.300%	200,000	\$119,500	\$40,250	03/02/17
Fire Truck	04/15/10	1.819%	\$200,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	04/15/15
Mountview Feasibility Study	03/02/12	2.300%	\$300,000	\$179,250	\$60,375	03/02/17
Capital Items 2012	03/02/12	2.300%	\$370,000	\$221,250	\$74,375	03/02/17
DPW Truck	01/15/13	2.000%	\$210,000	\$165,000	\$45,000	01/15/18

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE – *Mountview Middle School Project*

MountView Middle School (BAN)	06/20/14	0.75%	\$10,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$10,500,000	06/19/15
-------------------------------	----------	-------	--------------	--------------	--------------	----------

GENERAL FUND DEBT - *Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Loans (formerly MWPAT)*

Septic Repair	11/13/98	-----	\$73,000	\$22,893	\$3,873	08/01/19
Sewer Connections I	07/24/03	-----	\$585,267	\$228,067	\$32,486	02/01/21
Sewer Connections II	10/26/06	-----	\$707,184	\$431,494	\$39,384	08/01/24

WATER/SEWER DEBT - *Conventional Loans*

Municipal Water System	11/01/97	4.979%	\$1,800,000	\$290,000	\$100,000	10/15/16
Municipal Water System	10/15/02	3.725%	\$3,600,000	\$1,620,000	\$180,000	10/15/22
Water Project Engineering	05/16/09	4.250%	\$300,000	\$0		05/16/14

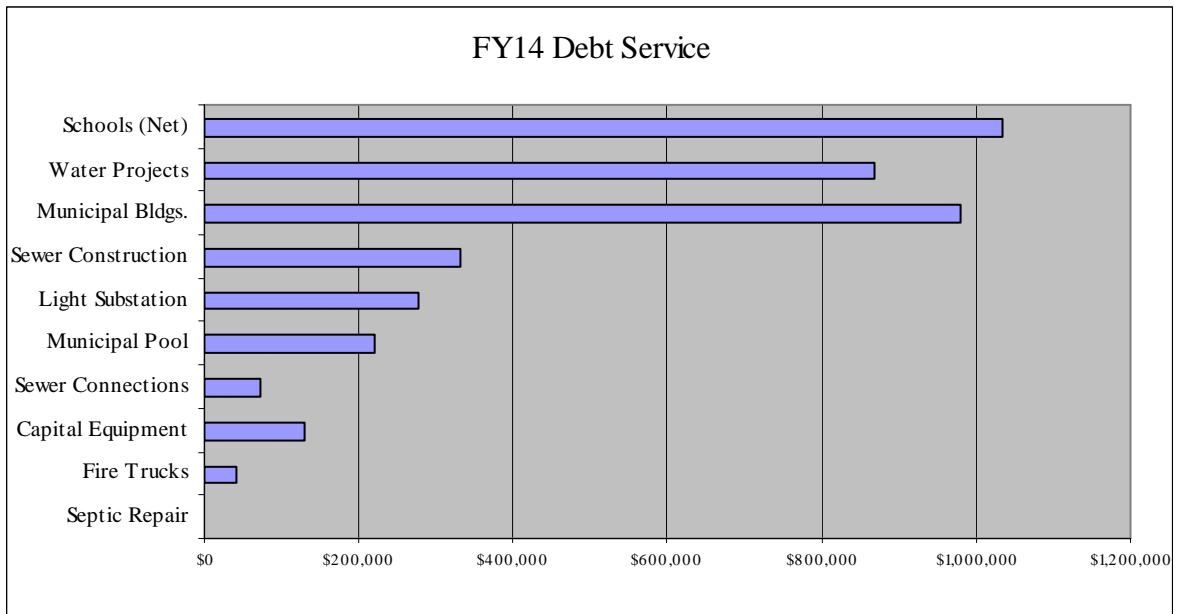
WATER/SEWER DEBT - Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Loans (formerly MWPAT)

Water System - DW-99-17	11/01/00	-----	\$1,981,866	\$833,535	\$108,507	07/15/20
Sewer Construction - CW-00-43	07/15/01	-----	\$3,020,015	\$1,330,000	\$175,000	01/15/21
Water System - DW-00-16	10/15/02	-----	\$831,535	\$415,255	\$42,469	07/15/22
Water System - DW-01-15	11/15/02	-----	\$773,153	\$405,000	\$40,000	07/15/22
Sewer Construction - CW-00-43A	11/15/02	-----	\$4,038,215	\$2,095,000	\$205,000	07/15/22
Water System - DW-01-15A	11/01/03	-----	\$3,444,613	\$1,430,667	\$120,747	07/15/23
Water System - DW-04-06	11/16/05	2.000%	\$923,349	\$600,068	\$44,690	07/15/23
Water System - DW -09-14*	03/01/10	2.000%	\$2,410,300	\$1,589,811	\$79,368	07/15/31
* Principal has been reduced by \$587,400 by ARRA principal reduction and reallocation of funds by MCWT						

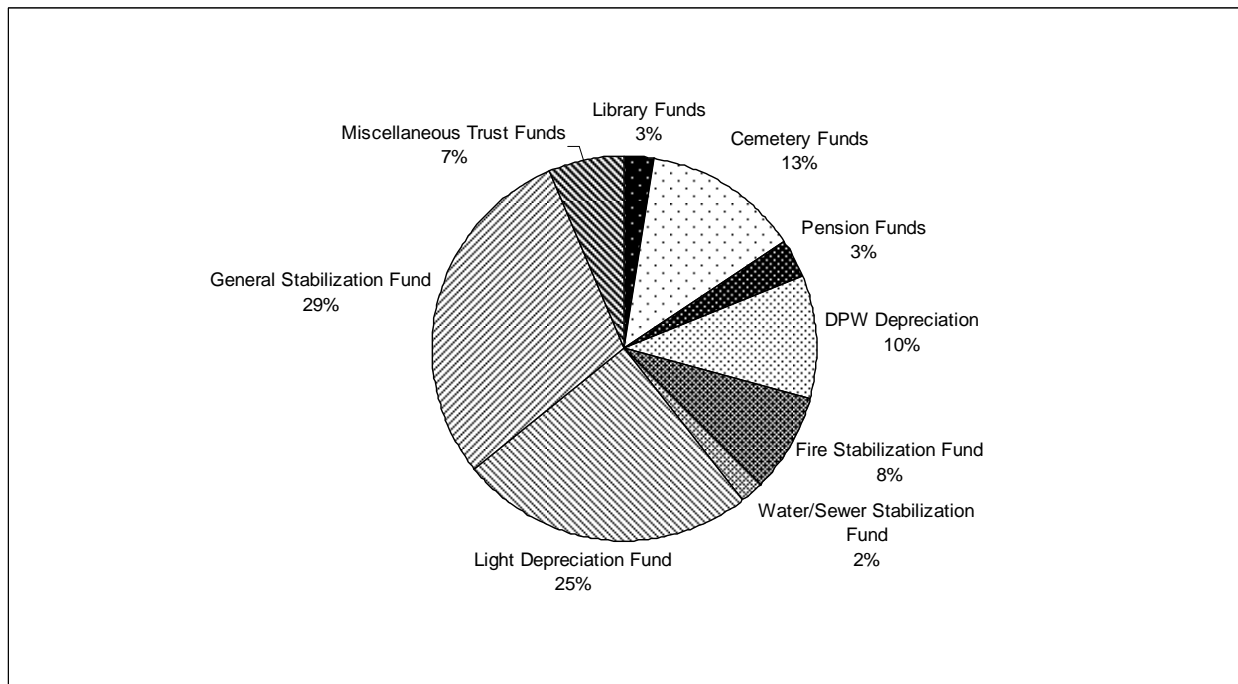
MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEBT

Light Substation	02/15/05	3.164%	\$2,620,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	02/15/15
------------------	----------	--------	-------------	-----------	-----------	----------

FINANCE TOWN TREASURER REPORT



Trust Funds - 2014



FINANCE TAX COLLECTOR REPORT 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

Motor Vehicle Excise - 2006		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>4,589.19</u>	<u>4,589.19</u>
Payments to Treasurer	232.50	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>4,356.69</u>	<u>4,589.19</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise - 2007		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>5,495.42</u>	<u>5,495.42</u>
Payments to Treasurer	63.75	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>5,431.67</u>	<u>5,495.42</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise - 2008		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>7,857.76</u>	<u>7,857.76</u>
Payments to Treasurer	398.78	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>7,458.98</u>	<u>7,857.76</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise - 2009		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>4,991.90</u>	<u>4,991.90</u>
Payments to Treasurer	420.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>4,571.90</u>	<u>4,991.90</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise – 2010		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>6,433.28</u>	<u>6,433.28</u>
Payments to Treasurer	626.37	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>5,806.91</u>	<u>6,433.28</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise – 2011		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	9,629.67	
Refunded	<u>482.70</u>	<u>10,112.37</u>
Payments to Treasurer	2,627.26	
Abated	540.20	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>6,944.91</u>	<u>10,112.37</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise - 2012		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	22,159.38	
Committed per Warrant	134.79	
Refunded	<u>4,295.91</u>	<u>26,590.08</u>
Payments to Treasurer	12,070.45	
Abated	4,549.09	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>9,970.54</u>	<u>26,590.08</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise - 2013		
Outstanding July 1, 2013	242,439.86	
Committed per Warrant	222,043.05	

Refunded	<u>21,592.82</u>	<u>486,075.73</u>
Payments to Treasurer	433,734.86	
Abated	30,222.65	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>22,118.22</u>	<u>486,075.73</u>

Motor Vehicle Excise – 2014

Committed per Warrant	2,245,430.76	
Refunded	<u>22,587.09</u>	<u>2,268,017.85</u>
Payments to Treasurer	2,024,613.60	
Abated	84,896.58	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>158,507.67</u>	<u>2,268,017.85</u>

Personal Property Tax – 2004-2011

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>6,462.13</u>	<u>6,462.13</u>
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>6,462.13</u>	<u>6,462.13</u>

Personal Property Tax - 2012

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>3,785.18</u>	<u>3,785.18</u>
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>3,785.18</u>	<u>3,785.18</u>

Personal Property Tax - 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	6,281.60	
Refunded	<u>18.47</u>	<u>6,300.07</u>
Payments to Treasurer	2,979.01	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>3,321.06</u>	<u>6,300.07</u>

Personal Property Tax - 2014

Committed per Warrant	419,747.47	
Refunded	<u>5,002.74</u>	<u>424,750.21</u>
Payments to Treasurer	416,993.59	
Abated	218.33	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>7,538.29</u>	<u>424,750.21</u>

Farm Animal – 2008-2011

Outstanding July 1, 2013		<u>1,101.08</u>
Outstanding June 30, 2014		<u>1,101.08</u>

Real Estate Tax - 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	245,329.55	
Refunded	<u>7.64</u>	<u>245,337.19</u>
Payments to Treasurer	217,990.75	
Transferred to Tax Title	<u>27,346.44</u>	<u>245,337.19</u>

Real Estate Tax - 2014

Committed per Warrant	32,529,008.21	
Refunded	<u>47,340.52</u>	<u>32,576,348.73</u>
Payments to Treasurer	32,090,490.75	

Abated	129,504.03	
Transferred to Tax Title	101,528.72	
Outstanding June 30, 2014		<u>32,576,348.73</u>

Sewer Assessment 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>4,442.75</u>	<u>4,442.75</u>
Payments to Treasurer	3,859.25	
Transferred to Tax Title	<u>583.50</u>	<u>4,442.75</u>

Sewer Assessment - 2014

Committed per Warrant	<u>268,046.69</u>	<u>268,046.69</u>
Payments to Treasurer	263,901.41	
Transferred to Tax Title	621.73	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>3,523.55</u>	<u>268,046.69</u>

Connection Loans – 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>597.80</u>	<u>597.80</u>
Payments to Treasurer	<u>597.80</u>	<u>597.80</u>

Connection Loans - 2014

Committed per Warrant	<u>44,587.54</u>	<u>44,587.54</u>
Payments to Treasurer	44,289.54	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>298.00</u>	<u>44,587.54</u>

Septic Liens & Interest – 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>585.63</u>	<u>585.63</u>
Payments to Treasurer	<u>585.63</u>	<u>585.63</u>

Septic Liens & Interest - 2014

Committed per Warrant	<u>2,436.13</u>	<u>2,436.13</u>
Payments to Treasurer	1,850.49	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>585.64</u>	<u>2,436.13</u>

Light Liens – 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>1,031.96</u>	<u>1,031.96</u>
Payments to Treasurer	<u>1,031.96</u>	<u>1,031.96</u>

Light Liens – 2014

Committed per Warrant	<u>1,747.38</u>	<u>1,747.38</u>
Payments to Treasurer	1,010.49	
Transferred to Tax Title	78.78	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>658.11</u>	<u>1,747.38</u>

Water Liens & Water Lien Charges – 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>2,273.25</u>	<u>2,273.25</u>
Transferred to Tax Title	<u>2,273.25</u>	<u>2,273.25</u>

Water Liens & Charges - 2014

Committed per Warrant	<u>4,305.62</u>	<u>4,305.62</u>
Payments to Treasurer	3,252.89	
Transferred to Tax Title	127.64	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>925.09</u>	<u>4,305.62</u>

Trash Liens – 2013

Outstanding July 1, 2013	<u>163.64</u>	<u>163.64</u>
Payments to Treasurer	<u>163.64</u>	<u>163.64</u>

Trash Liens - 2014

Committed per Warrant	<u>1,195.46</u>	<u>1,195.46</u>
Payments to Treasurer	1,031.96	
Transferred to Tax Title	60.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2014	<u>103.50</u>	<u>1,195.46</u>

Supplemental Real Estate Taxes – 2013

Committed per Warrant	27,466.66	
Refunded	<u>2,397.33</u>	<u>29,863.99</u>
Payments to Treasurer	<u>29,863.99</u>	<u>29,863.99</u>

Supplemental Real Estate Taxes - 2014

Committed per Warrant	83,898.33	
Refunded	<u>3,270.85</u>	<u>87,169.18</u>
Payments to Treasurer	86,132.32	
Abated	289.56	
	<u>747.30</u>	<u>87,169.18</u>

Lieu of Taxes – 2014

Committed per Warrant		<u>75,407.33</u>
Payments to Treasurer		<u>75,407.33</u>

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

Rosemary Scully, MAA-Principal Assessor
James R. Dillon-MAA, Assessor
Robert W. Fitzgerald-MAA, RMA, Assessor

Janice R. Cross-Clerk Supervisor
Suzanne Lucia-Senior Clerk
Pauline Dillon- Data Collector
Lori Anne Wall – Mapper

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 almost 8,000 residential properties, which includes single-family homes, multi-family homes, condominiums, and apartment buildings. There are also 200 commercial and industrial properties and nearly 400 personal property accounts which must be reviewed on an annual basis. The office also receives more than 19,000 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 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 of Holden has contracted with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. to host this site.

The Town of Holden 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 2015. The Fiscal Year 2015 tax rate for all classes of property is \$18.12 per thousand dollars of valuation.

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

HOLDEN GIS ONLINE

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

The Assessors' Office is eager 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 the Assessors' Office at (508) 210-5515 for further assistance.

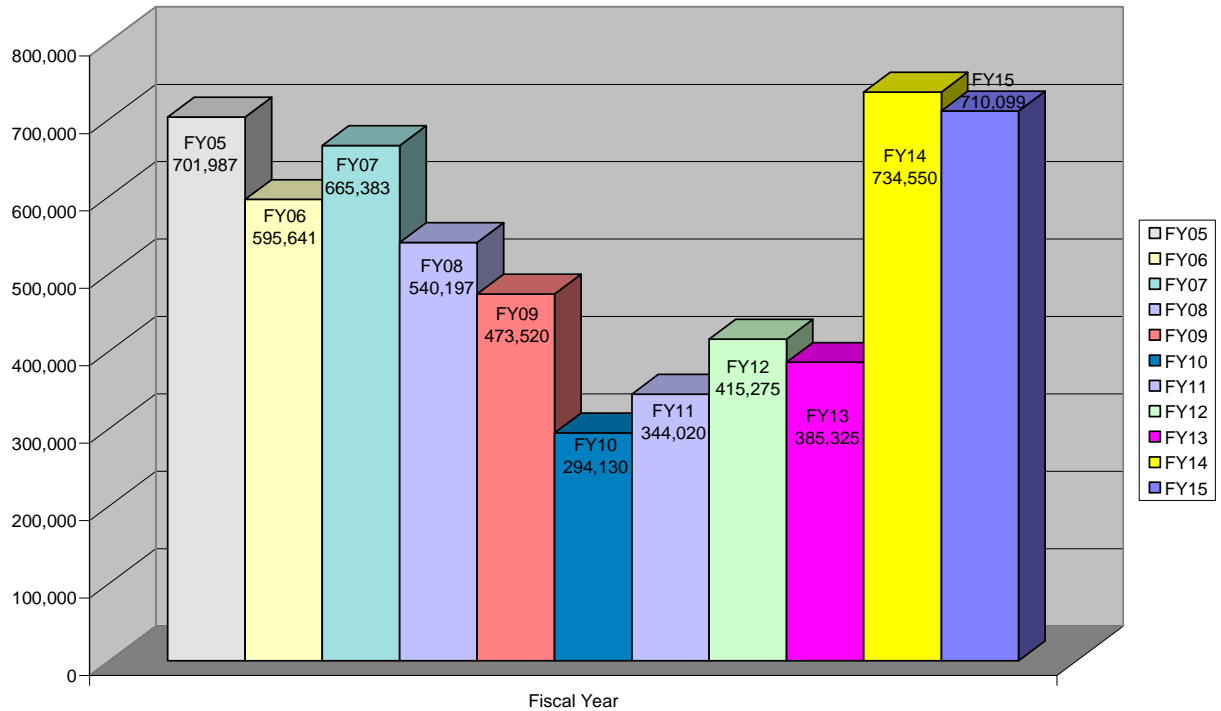


New Houses Built in 2014

New construction, additions and alterations between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 increased the total value of the Town by \$40 million dollars.

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

NEW GROWTH CHART 2015



ASSESSMENT DATA VALUATION AND TAX LEVY

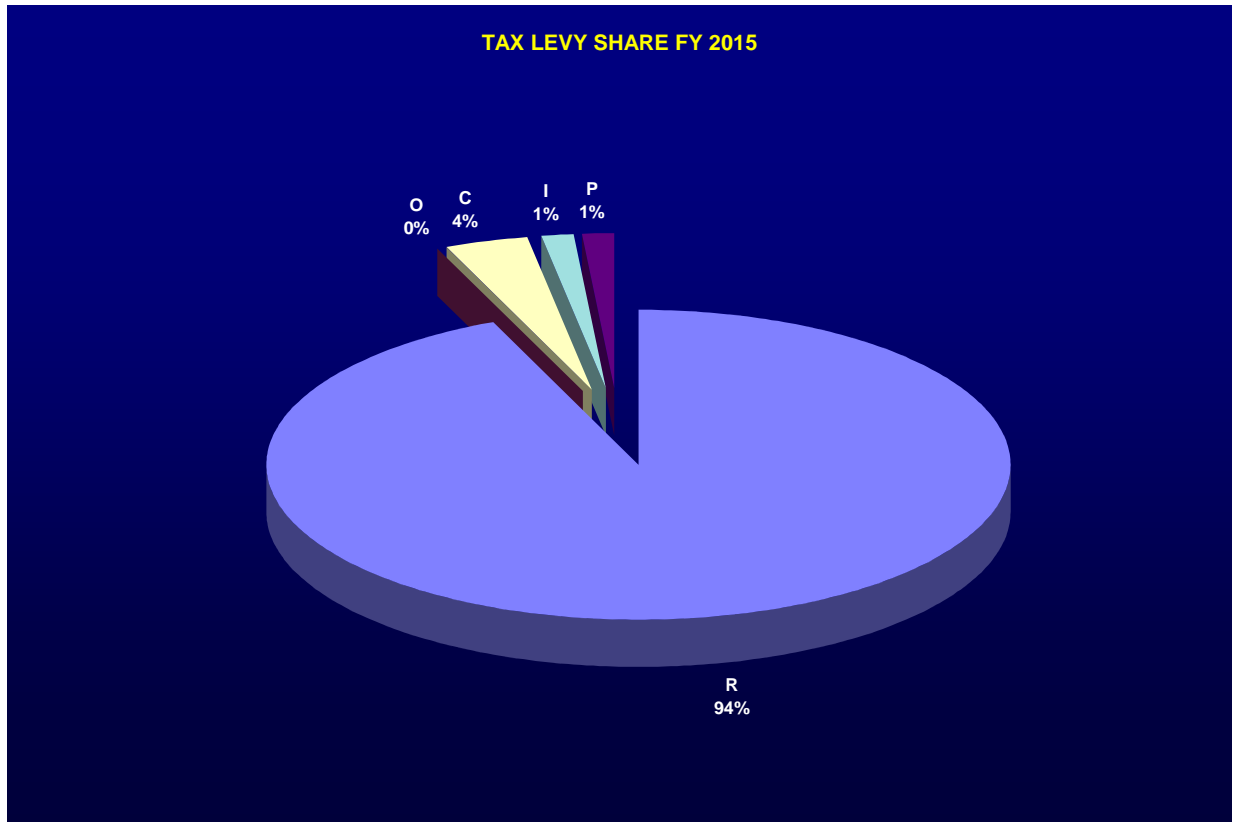
FISCAL YEAR	ASSESSED VALUATION	TAX LEVY	TAX RATE*
2015	\$1,883,118,500	\$34,122,107	\$18.12
2014	\$1,856,042,600	\$32,944,756	\$17.75
2013	\$1,810,899,100	\$31,455,318	\$17.37
2012	\$1,838,082,600	\$30,383,505	\$16.53
2011	\$1,859,330,100	\$29,098,521	\$15.65
2010	\$1,883,982,600	\$27,882,942	\$14.80
2009	\$1,985,104,400	\$27,076,824	\$13.64

*Tax Rate expressed in per thousand dollars of assessed valuation

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

FISCAL YEAR 2015 PERCENT OF TAX LEVY BY CLASS
--

CLASS	TYPE	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
I	RESIDENTIAL	93.55	93.58	93.74	93.91
II	OPEN SPACE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
III	COMMERCIAL	3.60	3.63	3.40	3.24
IV	INDUSTRIAL	1.47	1.52	1.34	1.35
V	PERSONAL PROPERTY	<u>1.38</u>	<u>1.27</u>	<u>1.52</u>	<u>1.50</u>
	TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00



ASSESSORS' OFFICE

FISCAL YEAR 2015
PROPERTY USE ASSESSMENTS

CLASS CODE	CLASS TYPE	PARCEL COUNT	TOTAL ASSD. VALUE	% OF TOTAL REAL ESTATE
101	Single Family	5727	1,523,917,000	80.93
102	Condominiums	739	114,082,200	6.06
104	Two Family	79	18,250,700	.97
105	Three Family	19	4,595,900	0.24
103,109	Misc, multi dwell	101	34,705,300	1.34
111-125	4 or More Units	19	24,136,300	1.28
012-043	Mixed Use	35	12,464,900	0.66
130-132	Vacant Land	939	34,720,300	1.84
300-393	Commercial	139	61,938,200	3.29
400-452	Industrial	32	27,283,000	1.45
CH 61	Forest Land	21	36,500	0.002
CH61A	Agricultural Land	49	371,600	0.02
CH61B	Recreational Land	14	542,200	0.03
500	Personal Property	376	26,074,400	1.38
TOTALS		8,289	\$1,883,118,500	100.00

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. For FY2015, the levy is being increased \$501,452 (which is 1.66% of the FY2014 levy limit). This results in an excess levy capacity of \$253,197.

<i>The levy limit rises each year automatically by 2.5% of the prior year’s limit</i>	Increase in Levy	
	FY11	640,319
	FY12	664,927
	FY13	622,739
	FY14	646,977
	FY15	501,452

Also, 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.

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

Permitting the levy limit to be adjusted by “new growth” recognizes the fact that development creates pressures on Town services over the long term.

<i>In addition, the tax levy attributable to “new growth” is added to the levy limit</i>	New Growth	
	FY11	344,020
	FY12	415,275
	FY13	385,325
	FY14	734,550
	FY15	710,099

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.

ASSESSORS' OFFICE

<i>EXEMPTIONS</i>			
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.	175.00
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 widows or widowers of qualified veterans (as long as they remain unmarried) or parents of service men killed in action.	400.00
22A	Disabled Veterans	Loss of one foot, hand or sight of one eye, or Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross.	750.00
22B	Disabled Veterans	Loss of hands, feet or eyes.	1250.00
22C	Disabled Veterans	Specially-adapted housing.	1500.00
22D	Surviving Spouse	Veteran died from injuries due to being in combat zone	Full
22E	Disabled Veterans	100% disability and incapable of working. Must file certification indicating inability to work.	1000.00
PARAPLEGIC	Disabled Veterans spouses 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.	500.00
41C	Elderly	Applicant must be 65 prior to July 1, be a resident of Massachusetts for 10 years and owned real estate in Massachusetts 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 combine 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 excluded.	1,000.00

<i>DEFERRALS</i>	
Statutory Reference	Qualifications
Ch. 59, Sec. 5, Cl. 41A	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 Recovery Agreement	Agreement allowing persons eligible under Clause 41A to enter into deferral and recovery agreement, thereby deferring payment. Application should be filed within six months after notice of assessment. This is recorded as a lien on the property and no transfer of 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

Chief's Report

John Chandler, III – Fire Chief

In 2014, the Holden Fire Department had a number of serious structure fires and one fatality. While Holden is a smaller town we are not lacking many of the serious dangers firefighters face every day across the country and around the world. The house fires this year were mostly centered on faulty heating and electrical systems. It can't be stressed enough that proper maintenance and installation of heating systems are extremely important. Also, residents are reminded to contact the Fire Administration office to obtain the appropriate inspections for any work done in their home. The inspections are not a way for the Town to make revenue, but rather a public safety measure to make sure installation was done properly and according to Massachusetts General Laws.

Remember, in the event of a malfunction or fire, working smoke detectors save lives! Please be sure that your home is adequately equipped with smoke detectors! All residents are now required to have working carbon monoxide detectors on every floor, as well as smoke detectors. Please make sure your house is equipped with working carbon monoxide detectors! For general fire prevention questions or placement of detectors, please contact the Fire Prevention Division.

The On-Call Firefighter department had much turnover this year as a number of members moved or could not meet the demanding time it takes to be trained as Call Firefighters with family life and their jobs. In 2015, we will be conducting our own in-house Firefighter I/II class in hopes that we can attract new call firefighters who may not be able to take the time needed to attend this Massachusetts Firefighting Academy class.

The Fire Prevention Division continues to work with local businesses and homeowners to ensure that all fire safety regulations are being adhered to. Much of the Department training and fire prevention activities have been focused on touring businesses in town and preparing fire pre-plans to help us in the event of an actual fire.

Holden Fire Department Personnel

The Holden Fire Department command staff consists of the following personnel: one Chief, one Assistant Chief, two Deputy Chiefs, one Captain, and nine Lieutenants. At the end of 2014, the Department roster consisted of 16 fulltime firefighters, 25 paid on-call firefighters, four recruits, two auxiliary members, two administrative assistants, one chaplain, and one department Public Information Officer/photographer.

After 10 years of service, Jerry Heslinga, department chaplain, retired to be with family. We are very excited to have Pastor John Barber from the First Congregational Church come on board as our new chaplain. Pastor John has already assisted many department members, and was a valuable asset after the fire death of a Holden resident this year.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Also retiring this year was Richard Dewitt. Rich was hired in 1972 under Chief Gordon Creamer. Within his 42 years of service to the fire department, Rich was a lieutenant for eight years.

MEMBER	RANK	YEARS OF SERVICE
John Chandler III	Fire Chief	8
Peter Bergstrom	Deputy Chief/EMT	36
John Cross, Jr.	Deputy Chief	44
Russell Hall	Assistant Chief	5
James Oberg	Captain	46
David Chapin	Lieutenant/EMT	13
Scott Charbonneau	Lieutenant/EMT	37
Eric Fasshauer	Lieutenant	14
Andrew Miller	Lieutenant /EMT	14
Joshua Poznanski	Lieutenant/EMT-P	8
Michael Rosen	Lieutenant/EMT-I	36
Sean Smith	Lieutenant/EMT	8
Barry Tupper	Lieutenant/ /EMT	22
John Whipple	Lieutenant	22
John Bain	Firefighter	6
Amanda Beahn	Firefighter	2
Matthew Benoit	Firefighter/EMT	22
Erik Bishop	Firefighter	3
Charles Borowy	Firefighter/EMT-P	8
Dennis Carlson	Firefighter	2
Brendon Connor	Firefighter	4
Robert Connor	Firefighter/EMT-P	1
Daniel Deptula	Firefighter	13
Richard DeWitt	Firefighter	42
Steven DeWitt	Firefighter	20
Derryl Dion	Firefighter/EMT	15
David Eddy	Firefighter	22
Kevin Fagerquist	Firefighter	22
Kevin Harmon	Firefighter	3
Colin Haynes	Firefighter	1
Daniel Hazen	Firefighter	6
Adam Hickey	Firefighter	10
Michael Himmer	Firefighter	15
Derek Hirons	Firefighter/EMT-P	5
Richard Johnson	Firefighter/EMT-P	1
Nicholas Kakelec, Jr.	Firefighter/EMT	12
Peter Lacy	Firefighter/EMT	11
Jeremy LaFlamme	Firefighter/EMT	5
Tyke Lothrop	Firefighter/EMT-P	4

Richard McGinn	Firefighter/EMT-P	5
Ryan Mouradian	Firefighter	8
Ethan Naiman	Firefighter/EMT-P	1
Ryan Murphy	Recruit	1
Robert Nickerson	Firefighter/EMT-P	5
Adam Parslow	Firefighter	2
Bryan Patch	Firefighter/EMT-P	4
Paul Pierce	Firefighter/EMT-P	3
Mark Ponte	Firefighter	5
Brian Rushlow	Firefighter/EMT	6
David Russo	Firefighter/EMT-P-EMS Coordinator	3
Leah Francese-Wood	Fulltime Senior Clerk	7
Heidi LaFleur-McAlice	Part time Senior Clerk	7
Rev. John Barber	Chaplain	1
Ira Hoffman	Photographer	4

Federal and state guidelines require all Holden Fire Service personnel to receive mandatory and specialized training in many areas. All newly hired members of the department are now required to complete Recruit Firefighter Training at the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow, Mass.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of the Town of Holden through the enforcement of the Fire Prevention laws of the Commonwealth. As always, the Department has provided a significant number of permit inspections over the last year and those numbers are increasing with each passing year. These types of inspections include those for the sale of residential structures, fire alarm systems, oil burners, above/underground storage tanks, liquid propane gas tanks, sprinkler systems, etc. Along with issuing permits and conducting inspections, the Department provides plan review on all commercial and residential construction projects to ensure that fire protection systems and devices are installed in the proper locations for the safety of the building inhabitants. In this past year, the largest project the Fire Prevention Division began working on is the construction of the new Mountview Middle School. With such a large project, the department becomes involved at the initial planning stages to ensure fire protection codes are followed from the first architectural designs.

The Fire Prevention Division is also responsible for inspecting commercial locations, medical facilities and places of public assembly. We provide safety inspections and fire drills for the business community of Holden as well as all the Wachusett Regional School District schools in town. In 2014, the Department made great strides in enhancing our commercial and public assembly inspection process, as well as creating pre-fire plans for all places of public assembly, all schools, healthcare facilities and all restaurants in the Town of Holden. This type of planning has enhanced the emergency response by the Fire Department.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

As always we encourage residents who would like a safety inspection of their home or have questions about their smoke or carbon monoxide detectors to contact the Fire Prevention Division. Remember to change the batteries in all of your detectors every six months to ensure that they are in proper working order.

	2012	2013	2014
STRUCTURE FIRES BY FIXED PROPERTY USE			
Private dwellings (residential fires)	8	19	18
Apartments (residential fires)	1	0	4
All other residential	0	0	0
Public Assembly	0	0	0
Schools	1	0	1
Health Care	0	0	0
Stores and Offices	0	0	1
Industry, Utility, Laboratories	0	0	0
Storage in Structures	0	2	1
Other Structures	0	0	1
Structure Fires:	10	21	26
OTHER FIRES			
Fires in Highway Vehicles	1	3	1
Fires in Other Vehicles	0	3	2
Fires in Outside Structures	14	14	3
Fires in Rubbish	5	2	4
All Other Fires	4	3	13
Other Fires:	24	25	23
OTHER EMERGENCIES			
Rescue, Emergency Medical Service	1,308	1,255	1,308
False Alarm Responses	139	211	208
Mutual Aid Fire and EMS	63	63	45
Hazmat Responses	29	21	30
Hazardous Conditions	18	14	18
All Other Responses	235	250	238
Other Emergencies:	1,792	1,814	1,847
TOTAL ALL INCIDENTS:	1,826	1,860	1,896

The following inspections are based on the permits listed below in addition to routine fire inspections. The state requires the installation of carbon monoxide sensors in all residences, and these are inspected by the Fire Department when a house changes ownership.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PERMITS ISSUED	2013	2014
Oil Burner Permits	86	76
Burn Brush	450	306
Smoke Detectors	435	314
Fire Alarm Permits	110	84
Liquid Propane Gas Storage	70	95
Blasting	1	1
Other (aboveground tank installation /removals, tank truck inspections, agricultural permits, sprinkler permits, blasting, welding)	103	132
Total Permits:	1,255	1,008

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS AND DRILLS	2013	2014
Fire Drills	32	40
Health care facilities (quarterly)	6	6
Liquor license renewals	8	9
School inspections	10	10
Places of assembly	16	16
Commercial inspections	15	18
Total Annual Inspections:	87	99

Holden Explorers Post Program

The Holden Fire Explorers Post 2012 continues to be an important part in the mission of the Holden Fire Department. Some of the current firefighters were a part of the Explorer Post at one time, and it has served as an important recruiting tool. Currently, the Post has 22 active members and six adults registered with the Mohegan Council and the Boy Scouts of America.

For the past two years, the Holden Fire Explorers Post 2012 has been under the direction of firefighter and senior advisor David Eddy. He has been an advisor to the Holden Fire Explorers Post for 11 years and has 38 years experience as a firefighter. Advisors who preside under him are Tim Kelly, Jeremy LaFlamme, and Claudia Eddy who bring a combined experience of 37 years to the program. The liaison for the past 15 years to the Post and Mohegan Council is Howie Gellis. Fire Chief John Chandler serves as the Executive Officer for the program. The Holden Fire Explorer Post 2012 meet once a week and learns all aspects of fire, rescue, EMS, wilderness survival, and search and rescue. The main mission of Post 2012 is to support the mission of the Holden Fire Department.

Some exciting events this year included tours of the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow, Mass., and the Princeton Fire Department for a smokehouse drill and foam drill. With other Explorer groups across New England, members participated at Old Sturbridge Village's annual summer Fire and Ice Event, as well as the Klondike at

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Treasure Valley in Rutland. For this event, they were in charge of the Wilderness First Aid Station at Treasure Valley. Their task was to score incoming Boy Scout troops on their knowledge of first aid and teamwork. This was solely the Explorers responsibility and to work as a unit. The advisors were present if assistance was needed.

Though the Explorers were not activated by the Fire Department in 2014, they have been in the past under the direction of the chief to assist the Fire Department to check apparatus, equipment, packing hose, and other tasks assigned by officers as needed. Special thanks are given to Deputy Chief Jack Cross for his annual presentation on chimney fire operations; Mark Dubois for cold weather training; Lieutenant Scott Charbonneau for the fundamentals of SCBA; and Deputy Chief Ken Whitney from Princeton Fire for the in-service on wildfires. We appreciate the years of knowledge that they share with the Explorer Post 2012 members. The Explorer Program is open to any youth between the ages of 14 and 21. If interested in joining, please contact Firefighter David Eddy or Chief John Chandler.

Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program

The S.A.F.E. program is a state-wide initiative to teach fire education and prevention in our community. This year, the Fire Department was awarded the FY14 S.A.F.E. grant. With these funds, our S.A.F.E. Coordinator taught fire safety/prevention education in the Holden elementary schools, as well as private preschools/daycares. The focus on the school visits was centered on cold water and ice rescue awareness. With student participation, demonstrations were conducted using a bucket of cold water. Students remove 30 pennies from the bottom of the bucket. This simulated how bodies react in cold water if quick action is not taken to get out. The S.A.F.E. Coordinator also held station tours to groups of Boy and Girl Scouts. These station tours include discussions on first aid and equipment on the department ambulances.

The S.A.F.E. Program was also privileged to receive another state-wide grant to begin the Senior S.A.F.E. program. This program is aimed toward those residents in town 55 years old and older. The S.A.F.E. Coordinator conducted presentations at the Senior Center aimed toward the calls Holden Fire Department respond to for this age group. The presentation focused on slips/trips/falls as well as home hazards. Home hazard discussions provided solutions to prevent hallway clutter, bathroom slip and fall prevention, as well as throw rug trip hazards. There was another presentation that was given to discuss the importance of having a current File-of-Life system. This program mentioned the importance of keeping contact information, past significant medical histories, updated medications, allergies, and any other pertinent health information. In the event of an emergency, as first responders arrive to the residences, a File-of-Life was asked to be kept in a central location for those responders to access easily. In the event of an emergency, this allows the first responder to begin a treatment procedure on an unconscious person based on a past medical history, allergy, or pertinent information as to why that person had a health crisis.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

As years progress, the Holden S.A.F.E. program is constantly changing its safety lessons and demonstrations to cater to patterns that may be occurring in Fire Department and EMS responses.

Emergency Medical Services

The Holden Fire Department EMS service continued to provide high level emergency care to the residents of the Town in 2014. The Department answered nearly 1,500 requests for service with 71 percent of the patients transported requiring Advanced Life Support care from the department paramedics. The service continues to attract experienced providers who provide quality medical care to our patients.

In 2014, the Department purchased a new Class 1 ambulance to replace an aging unit. The ambulance was designed by a committee of Department EMS members to conform to our Department specifications and to allow for many years of quality use to the Town. The vehicle was purchased from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles and is a Horton Ambulance on a Ford F550 4X4 chassis. Having an ambulance with four wheel drive capability ensures the vehicle can get to the patient in any type of weather. The four wheel drive is also a great feature as we have many off road nature areas that can now be accessed.

In trying to keep our service ahead of the curve and on the cutting edge of the technology in the EMS field, we have added some new equipment. The Department took delivery of a second Lucas 2 from Physio Control. This equipment is attached to a patient in cardiac arrest and it performs CPR mechanically. The benefit of this device is that it provides the proper compression ratios and depth that only a mechanical device can. It also frees one additional provider to do other treatments for the patient. This device has been utilized by many patients and has had positive results in return of spontaneous circulation, which leads to a more positive outcome. With the second unit in service, the technology will be available when there are multiple calls.

As 2014 comes to a close, we can look back and see the success of our EMS service continuing and moving forward. The Holden Fire Department continues to research the life saving techniques we can bring to the Town, and its residents, whether through education or testing new equipment. In the Holden Fire Department EMS service, it is the dedication of our experienced and caring providers that ensures each and every call for aid will be met with the highest level of service and care.

Emergency Management

Emergency management for Holden is under the responsibilities of the Fire Chief. Emergency Management activities include membership in the South Wachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SWREPC) of which, Chief John Chandler is currently the chairman. Our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is comprised of volunteers who help during emergencies. This is another component of emergency preparedness and the response to emergencies that is handled by Fire Department personnel using Department equipment and special equipment purchased under the Emergency Management budget.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Major emphasis has continued this year on the training, operations and capabilities of the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Public Safety Building. The EOC is where town department managers will respond to in order to coordinate the multi-agency response during a significant emergency. The EOC has direct communications with the surrounding towns as well as the state Emergency Management Agency in order to coordinate assistance if needed. Regular training sessions for town staff are held in the EOC to ensure familiarization with the room and specialized equipment.

Fire Department personnel routinely update the Town's emergency response plans, such as the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Sheltering Plan.

South Wachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee

The South Wachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee is a regional planning committee made up of the towns of Boylston, Holden, Sterling and West Boylston. 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 that could strike the region, and practices how they would deal with 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. This year's drill was a train derailment leading to a chemical spill into the Wachusett Reservoir.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

CERT members can provide immediate assistance to victims in the area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the CERT training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster. All Holden CERT members are volunteers and are Incident Command (ICS) certified. ICS certification is not unique to CERT, but is a prerequisite to being an active responder to any disaster, at all levels. In addition, the CERT team is also the Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) for the Town of Holden.

Holden CERT furthered the partnership with the Boy Scouts by adding a TEEN CERT component that will incorporate into the Venture Crew program but will have a Public Safety focus; it is one of two such programs in the state. There are currently 6 members of Holden's TEEN CERT.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Currently, there are 31 members on the team. To date, 21 members are fully trained and credentialed, two members are HAM radio licensed (Ray Sherbourne – KC1CAW, Rebecca Evanoff – KC1CAV), there are two advisors (Dr. Danielle Friend of Holden Veterinary Clinic, and Lynne Walker), and seven Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members (Nancy Owens, Betty Fogg, Rebecca Evanoff, Lynne Walker, David P. Russo, Drew Knapic and Jere Bradley). In 2014, CERT had four members join and they are almost complete in their training, Kimberley Greene, Richard Clark, Renee Marion, and Alicynn Wilson.

CERT members participated in a Fire Department small-vehicle and UTV driving training so that members can move vehicles, haul light and sign boards and further assist fire personnel at incidents by freeing up resources. Holden CERT also coordinated and hosted a HAM radio class and test session in collaboration with the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA).

During 2014, CERT responded to approximately 13 missions. These were both emergency/non-emergency incidents, and public information events in town, as well as assisting other towns when requested.

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Location</i>
Oriol Healthcare Fireworks – planning & operations	Holden
Fire Assist – rehab (Bailey Rd)	Holden
Fire Assist – perimeter control (Farragut)	Holden
EM Assist – perimeter control (WRHS)	Holden
Winter Carnival – Lights, planning, site monitoring	Holden
Holden Days –Public information	Holden
REPC drill – attendee	SWREPC
Region 3/4 CERT meetings	Various locations
Liaison with CMDART	CERT Coordinator attends as an advisory board member
Sterling Fair – Public safety/traffic assistance	Sterling
Public Safety Days – preparedness scavenger hunt	Holden
CPR/AED recertification	Holden
GRANT – awarded \$1,300.00 Holden CERT (supplies)	Holden

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief John Chandler reading a commendation to the Holden CERT Team for their work during the Oriol Healthcare Fireworks celebration

CERT maintains information only Facebook/Twitter presence to help with public education, and has a website at www.holdencert.org and also uses an on-line Google Calendar for meetings/trainings. CERT members have attended the Police Department Civilian Police Academy in the past. CERT has also extended an invitation to the Holden Police Department to join them in trainings so that there is a better understanding of CERT functions and capabilities, as well as an increased confidence level in the team.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTOS



Submitted photo: Ira Hoffman

Car accident on 122A Main Street, Jefferson



Submitted photo: Ira Hoffman

Fire on Bailey Road

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Report

David A. Armstrong – Police Chief

The Holden Police Department experienced a year of change in 2014. After 40 years of service Chief George Sherrill retired. Chief Sherrill was credited with making the Holden Police Department the model of what Community Policing should be in the Commonwealth. Chief Sherrill was also responsible for completing the Holden Public Safety Complex. On March 1, 2014 a new command staff was sworn in. Lieutenant David A. Armstrong was promoted to Chief of Police. Sergeant Chris Carey was promoted to Lieutenant. Patrolman Adam Porcaro was promoted to Sergeant.

The Holden Police Department completed a four year project to develop a regional dispatch center with the Town of Princeton. The Wachusett Regional Dispatch Center started operation in December. The dispatch center now handles all fire, medical and police calls via 911 for both Princeton and Holden. This merger will have cost savings and make the region safer with better communications within the region. The second phase of the project is to bring the Town of West Boylston into our center in the next two years.

The Community Policing section of the Holden Police Department continues to have the Wachusett Regional Criminal Justice Program as its icon. The program continues to draw approximately 60 students to the two year program. It was a busy year with Holden Days, Fireworks and the Winter Festival all growing in attendance and scope. Holden police continue to work with our town's senior living organizations to bring information and support to that segment that can be victimized with fraud cases.

The Holden Police Department works very hard to maintain the highest level of professionalism and service to the Community. I am extremely gratified to lead the men and woman of the Holden Police Department into 2015.

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Detective Bureau

Det. Sgt. Adam Porcaro

Det. Todd Ventres

The Holden Police Department's Detective Bureau is responsible for following up on preliminary crime reports resulting from investigations by patrolmen, and also serious crimes such as sexual assaults, robberies and death investigations. To accomplish this task, the specially trained officers assigned to the Detective Bureau work closely with the patrolmen, as well as other law enforcement agencies and detectives throughout New England.

Since criminals and crimes are not restricted to municipal boundaries, detectives participate in highly specialized organizations including, but not limited to, the Worcester County Counter Crime Task Force, the Worcester Police Street Violence Prevention Group, the New England State Police Information Network, the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), and the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators. The detectives also participate in a number of training seminars provided by District Attorney Joseph Early's office.

Once again, crime in Holden has remained at a relatively low level, even for a community approaching a population of 20,000 individuals and covering an area of 36 square miles. In the past year we have witnessed a number of crime trends. Breaking and entering involving larceny of property is all too frequent occurrences in today's society. Often times, such crimes happen in targeted areas within a relatively short time period. When this type of pattern emerges, members of the community are, understandably, concerned. This form of crime becomes very personal to the victims, their friends, families and neighbors. The Holden Police Department responds to these incidents with increased patrols, lengthy investigations, and assistance from other agencies and members of the community.

This year we have been successful by stopping groups and individuals from committing these crimes. We have also recovered stolen property belonging to the victims. In one example, a suspect responsible for multiple housebreaks in Holden and neighboring communities is now serving a minimum of one year in the House of Correction. In another case, through a lengthy investigation and execution of a search warrant, a suspect was arrested for more than 35 commercial business breaking and enterings involving Holden, Worcester, Shrewsbury and several other communities.

Drug use, especially the misuse of prescription medication and the prevalence of heroine, is a growing concern, not only in Holden, but throughout the Commonwealth. Drug use and addiction are an ever-present motivation for criminal activity. The Holden Police Detective Bureau has worked alone and in conjunction with other agencies, such as the DEA, in responding to these crimes. One investigation resulted

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

in the arrest of a suspect who we allege stole thousands of pills from a pharmacy in town.

A caller reported a possible explosive device at the Wachusett Regional School District Offices located at 1745 Main Street in Jefferson. Detectives, patrolmen and administrative personnel responded immediately. A safe perimeter was established around the building and the State Police Bomb Squad was called to the scene. It was later determined that object discovered was a hoax device. This probe is still being investigated by Holden Police Detectives and the State Fire Marshalls Office.

The Detective Bureau is required to investigate all unattended and suspicious deaths. Fortunately, the vast majority is determined to be the result of natural causes. The most notable this year involved the discovery of a body found in the basement of a burned home. The victim was located in a closet under the basement stairs, doused in gasoline. After an extensive investigation involving the Holden Police Detectives, Holden Fire Department, State Police Detectives and the State Fire Marshall's Office, it was determined that the fire was the result of self-immolation by the victim that spread to the house itself.

In another case, investigators were lead to Holden in search of a homicide suspect. Holden Police officers responding to the home of the victim's brother discovered what they thought may have been evidence of the crime. This information was forwarded to the Holden Detective Bureau and the State Police Detective Bureau. After a two-week investigation and the execution of a search warrant on a Lovell Road home, the suspect was arrested for the alleged multiple stabbing death of his brother.

The nature of police work does not afford detectives and police officers the ability to pick and choose assignments. When we receive information about suspected criminal activity, we have a duty to respond. This is the very nature of our service, and we are proud to fulfill this vital obligation. Some investigative techniques and assignments take considerable time and manpower. However, many crimes can be solved much more quickly with the help of the community. This is why we continue to urge residents to call the police immediately whenever they observe suspicious activity. Responding in a timely manner is often vital in solving crimes.

The Holden patrolmen and detectives are extremely proactive. With Holden's population on the rise, we continue to make effective improvements to meet the growing needs of the community we serve.

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control

Michael S. Sendrowski, ACO/SPO (Full-time)

Thomas S. Walsh, ACO (part-time)

Surprisingly 2014 was the second consecutive year where we realized a decrease in the total number of calls for service. Calls had been trending upward from 2010 through 2012 before falling during 2013. With the Town in a steady population growth mode we would have expected 2014 to have spiked back up to at least the 2013 level, but the total calls for service in 2014 came in at 431, which was 10 percent less than the 480 calls received in 2013. With the exception of calls concerning situations involving cats, we experienced decreases in all of the major areas we service, which are summarized below.

Lost & Found

The most numerous calls Animal Control received in 2014 involved lost and found domestic dogs and cats. Yet, Animal Control actually experienced a significant reduction in these calls from 2013: 97 in 2014 as compared to the 133 calls in 2013 (a 27 percent reduction). Animal Control keeps a lost and found listing at the Public Safety Building dispatch center, so please call either the Animal Control Office or the police/fire general business line so the pertinent information concerning a lost or found pet can be put on the listing.

Wildlife

Wildlife calls continue to be a busy area for Animal Control. These types of calls ranked second in 2014 coming in at 92 calls for service. However these calls were still 14 percent less than the 107 calls Animal Control received in 2013. This is somewhat surprising when you consider the home building taking place in our town, which often results in wildlife being displaced. In most situations nothing needs to be done with these animals other than to chase them from your property by making loud noises or waiting until they leave on their own; we have been continuously educating the public on this over the years, so perhaps this has had an impact on the reduction in the number of calls received. However, we remind people that if an animal appears sick or injured or otherwise presents a public safety hazard they should call Animal Control or 911 immediately.

Loose Dogs

Animal Control reports a 10 percent reduction in the loose dog calls for 2014, as compared to the previous year. Animal Control received 56 calls concerning nuisance dogs (because they were not confined or restrained) in 2014. This was down from the 62 calls received in 2013 and the 101 calls received in 2012. Holden has a 24-hour

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

leash law, which essentially requires all dogs to remain on their owner's or keeper's property and be leashed when on a public way. Animal Control issued only five citations for leash law violations in 2014 as most people respond favorably to the verbal warnings ACO officers try to apply first.

Cats

The number of calls concerning domestic cats stayed virtually the same for 2014 as compared to 2013 as Animal Control logged 22 calls for 2014 compared to the 21 calls received in 2013. These calls usually take the form of people being concerned that a cat is stray or abandoned but occasionally will involve other areas such as bites, feral, or welfare concerns.

Barking Dogs

Complaints concerning dogs incessantly barking and disturbing someone's peace decreased the most in 2014. Animal Control experienced a 39 percent decrease in this area as the number of calls for service fell to just 17 in 2014 as compared to the 28 in 2013. This is the second consecutive year where we have seen such a marked decrease in barking complaint calls. Animal Control has encouraged residents to first speak with their neighbors, and try to work things out amongst themselves, before requesting an official response from this office. Hopefully this effort has been reflected in the above downward trend Animal Control has been observing.

The aforementioned areas are the most common handled by Animal Control. However, the public should note that there are other calls we handle on a less frequent basis, including but not limited to: animal cruelty investigations, animal welfare checks, animal bites, livestock/farm animal calls, and exposure or possible exposure to rabies. Animal Control typically does not handle calls concerning wild animals in homes, but we can refer people to outside resources that are ready to help for a fee.

The Animal Control Office falls under the jurisdiction of the Holden Police Department and is located within the Holden Public Safety Building at 1370 Main Street. The office is staffed by one full-time Animal Control Officer and one part-time Animal Control Officer. Our direct dial is (508) 210-5649.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Dennis J. Lipka – Director/Building Commissioner
Pamela Harding – Senior Planner/Conservation Agent
Martha Grant – Clerk Supervisor
Debra Sciascia – Senior Clerk
Paul Kathman – Part-Time Inspector of Wires
Peter Liddy – Alternate Inspector of Wires
Thomas Reardon – Part-Time Building Inspector
Brian Lederer – Part-Time Plumbing/Gas Inspector
Dennis Harney – Alternate Plumbing/Gas Inspector

The Department of Growth Management 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, Economic Development, Health, and Historic Preservation 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 a partner in the Regional Alliance for Board of Health Services. This regional effort includes Worcester, Holden, Shrewsbury, Leicester, and West Boylston. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

Mark Johnson – Chairman

Mary Ricker

Bruce Pennino

Derek Brindisi – Director, Central Mass Regional Public Health Alliance

The Board of Health is a three member appointed board with each member serving a term of three years. The Board of Health is responsible for providing oversight to many different matters pertaining to public health and the environment, including but not limited to public health emergency preparedness planning, communicable disease control, community health improvement planning, immunizations, solid waste and recycling, on-site sewage disposal, recreational camp and public pool inspection, food safety and protection, housing and nuisance type complaints such as noise, dust, and odor.

Under the direction of the Holden Board of Health, the Town entered into an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Worcester's Division of Public Health (WDPH) and five other neighboring municipalities (Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance) in order to provide an even further wide array of public health services to the community. The Central Mass Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) is a coalition of six municipalities (towns of Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Shrewsbury, and West Boylston and the City of Worcester) working cooperatively to create and sustain a viable, cost-effective, and labor-efficient regional public health district serving a total population of 265,899 residents. The regional health district provides a comprehensive array of services to partner municipalities through a single organization managed by Worcester's Division of Public Health. The inspiration to develop a regional alliance arose from the considerable disparity in size, available resources, and kinds and types of resources offered by each municipality.

The goals of the Alliance are to establish an accredited public health district that demonstrates cost-savings and efficiencies, measure/monitor health status and risk and identify health priorities. In 2012, the Alliance conducted a comprehensive community health assessment (CHA) in order to determine priority areas for health improvement. After analyzing youth survey data, MASS CHIP data, and reviewing the qualitative data garnered from community forums, the Alliance identified five key areas of public health. Those areas are the foundation for the Alliance's first-ever community health improvement plan (CHIP), which has the vision of creating the "Healthiest Region in New England by 2020." Then in 2013, the Alliance developed its district-wide strategic plan as way to set short-term and long-term goals that focus on workforce development, sustainability, health improvement and safe places. After

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

completing the CHA, CHIP and strategic plan the Alliance became eligible to submit its application to the Public Health Accreditation Board on December 31, 2013. The Alliance is currently on pace to become the first accredited local public health agency in Massachusetts in 2014.

With a total workforce of 18 public health staffers, the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance communities can rely on public health expertise and experience as described within this annual report below.

Environmental Health

Public Health regional staff help ensure businesses and residents comply with numerous environmental health regulations. Most recognized is the food protection program, in which staff conducts routine and follow-up inspections of more than 59 food establishments. In addition, staff will review plans and specifications for new food businesses, investigate complaints and conduct administrative hearings with the director and/or the Board of Health to address non-compliant businesses. Regional Public Health Specialists (PHS) conduct inspections for semi-public swimming pools, tanning facilities and recreational camps for children, and investigate complaints related to housing, lead paint, illegal dumping, the release of oil or hazardous materials, and nuisances in accordance with the following regulations: Chapter V of the State Sanitary Code: Minimum Standards for Swimming Pools, 105 CMR 435.000; Chapter VII of the State Sanitary Code: Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches, 105 CMR 445.000; Recreational Camps for Children and family-style campgrounds, motels, mobile home parks and cabins; and annually issue licenses for these facilities, M.G.L. c.140, ss.32B and 32C; and Chapter IV of the State Sanitary Code: Sanitary Standards for Recreational Camps for Children, 105 CMR 430.000.

A review of inspections conducted during the calendar year did not yield any significant trends or discrepancies. However, the CMRPHA region has witnessed an increase in Farmer's Markets within its communities and neighboring municipalities.

Below is a summary of the types and number of inspections conducted in the town of Holden during the calendar year 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Low Risk Food Inspections	27
Medium Risk Food Inspections	36
High Risk Food Inspections	<u>28</u>
<i>Total of Routine Food Inspections</i>	91
<i>Total of Re-inspections conducted</i>	21
Housing Complaints	6
Food Safety Complaints	3
Nuisance Complaints	11
Animal Complaints	<u>37</u>
<i>Total Complaint Investigations</i>	57
<i>Total Number of Inspections (complaints)</i>	72
Pool Inspections (2 public pools)	2
Barn Inspections	27
Camp Inspections (3 camps)	2
Tanning Facility Inspections	1
Tobacco Inspections	(See Community Health)
Title V (system inspection)	28
Perc/Soil Testing	21
Septic Plan Reviews	28
New Construction Installation	19
Septic Upgrade/Repair	9
Septic Abandonments	<u>40</u>
<i>Total Title V Related Inspections</i>	145

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

Communicable Disease

Under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, suspected and/or confirmed cases of diseases dangerous to the public's health are reportable to the local Board of Health and/or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Reporting disease occurrences enables the Public Health staff to monitor trends, detect and control outbreaks, and evaluate prevention activities. WDPH/CMRPHA regularly collects important information on all reported diseases in the Town of Holden as part of routine epidemiological disease investigations.

The following is a summary of the reported diseases in Holden during 2014:

<u>Reportable Disease</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Babesiosis	4
Campylobacteriosis	4
Dengue Fever	1
Ehrlichiosis	1
Giardiasis	2
Hepatitis B (chronic)	2
Hepatitis C (acute)	2
Hepatitis C (chronic)	7
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	4
Influenza	16
Legionellosis	1
Lyme Disease	56
Malaria	1
Measles	2
Salmonellosis	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1
Varicella	1
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers	1
Viral Meningitis (aseptic)	1
Total	109

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

Community Health

The town of Holden is a member of the Worcester Regional Tobacco Control Collaborative, which provides enforcement of Mass General Laws and local regulations around youth access and environmental tobacco smoke. Youth access compliance checks, which involves a trained youth between the ages of 16-17 attempting to purchase a specific tobacco product in a permitted tobacco retail establishment, are conducted one or two times per fiscal year, as determined by the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program in the collaborative communities. Retailer education visits are also conducted to ensure all applicable permits and signage are displayed, humidors are locked, and Massachusetts tax stamps are on tobacco products, all tobacco products are behind the counter and out of the customer's reach and the importance of checking identification. During calendar year 2014, there were no underage sales of tobacco products by retailers in the town. Also during this period, the Board of Health reviewed existing youth access to tobacco regulations, with the assistance of WDPH/CMRPHA staff, and passed updates to the regulations.

Numerous presentations were made to the Board of Health on the prescription drug abuse epidemic and WDPH/CMRPHA activities to support awareness and collection of unused, unwanted or expired medications that languish in the home. Holden is part of the Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) which is a regional coalition that worked on collecting data and developing a regional plan on how to reduce or prevent opioid overdoses. The Coalition always welcomes residents and other key partners to participate in this important work.

In the spring, staff provided information on healthy living to the school wellness committee, as well as resources related to the Greater Worcester Community Health Improvement Plan. In the fall, WDPH/CMRPHA staff applied for a regional Mass in Motion grant which promotes healthy eating and active living. Although unsuccessful, messaging and campaigns around this topic are often shared with the communities in the Alliance.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

In the fall of 2014, Worcester Division of Public Health (WDPH) emergency preparedness staff worked to review and provide necessary edits to the Holden Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) plan on behalf of the Holden Board of Health. The Town of Holden Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) plan is a comprehensive, written plan that facilitates the request, receipt, distribution, and dispensing of medical countermeasures quickly and efficiently based on a worst case scenario. A large component of this plan is the identification of EDS location(s). Most cities and towns in the region identify schools as Emergency Dispensing Sites to achieve this requirement. School facilities offer large areas, i.e. cafeterias, gymnasiums and long hallways, to accommodate the large amount of people that would be receiving prophylaxis. A walkthrough of Wachusett Regional High School was conducted with facility staff. A meeting will be scheduled in early 2015 with Holden Board of Health representatives to review the plan, make any further edits and seek Board of Health approval.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

In December of 2014, the Board of Health participated in the Bad Day at the Basin table top exercise at Wachusett Reservoir. The scenario was a hazardous materials spill to test the notification, communications, and public information protocols; operational procedures utilized by first responders; coordination between responding agencies; and mutual aid and available response resources. A full scale exercise will follow in the spring of 2015.

The Worcester Regional Medical Reserve Corps (WRMRC) is a federally recognized unit of the MRC. The Town of Holden has 43 residents who are in the WRMRC database out of 370 total volunteers in the system. In 2014, the WRMRC participated in many events throughout Holden, including collaborating with the Holden CERT team. By working with Holden CERT, MRC volunteers were trained in HAM radio operations and also helped to support the CERT team by staffing a first aid tent at the fireworks (sponsored by Oriol Healthcare). The WRMRC also took part in Holden Days and provided blood pressure screenings and educational material to at least 84 town residents. To recognize national preparedness month in September, the MRC displayed a board on personal preparedness for citizens at the Gale Free Library. During flu season, MRC volunteers helped the public health nurse provide vaccinations to residents at the Holden Senior Center. Additionally, two CPR trainings were offered to all MRC volunteers at the Town's public safety building and Holden's resident MRC volunteers participated in a statewide drill and were put on standby for several local events.

September is National Preparedness Month. The WDPH/CMRPHA once again developed a media and public education campaign and provided promotional and educational materials to correspond with the 4 themes of preparedness month: *Get Ready – Individual and Family Preparedness*, *Get Involved – Join the Response*, *We're All in This Together – Considerations for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs*, *Get Vaccinated – Fight the Flu*. Staff distributed these materials through libraries, billboards, WRTA buses, websites and social media throughout all CMRPHA communities.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING BOARD

Pamela Harding – Town Planner
Debra Sciascia – Recording Secretary

William J. Ritter – Chairman

Jeffrey Head
John Michalak

Otto Lies

David Lindberg

Tina Stratis

Scott Carlson

Related Committee/Commission Memberships

Otto Lies – Central Massachusetts Planning Commission (CMRPC)

Responsibilities

Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 41, Section 81 establishes the regulations and procedures the Planning Board must follow including, but not limited to, the Subdivision Control Law and the requirement to file an annual report. The Planning Board has established local regulations under this law to control the establishment of new subdivisions within the Town. Holden's By-laws provide additional procedures for the Planning Board to conduct site plan review of other development projects to assure the safety of access and egress and internal circulation on those sites.

Subdivision Regulation

The Board conducted various administration and oversight of active subdivisions approved in previous years.

In 2014, the Planning Board reviewed 18 plans entitled to endorsement when subdivision "approval is not required." These plans generally are for lot line adjustments, easements, and the creation of new building lots, which meet frontage and area requirements under zoning and are located on existing roadways.

The Planning Board approved a four lot subdivision referred to as St. Mary's Drive extension. The project allowed for the creation of a cul de sac at the terminus of an existing dead end.

The Planning Board also conducted an amendment to the existing approval for January Lane to eliminate the connection for a future roadway.

A public hearing was opened for Wachusett Valley Estates located at 325 Bullard Street. The application was for a 36 lot subdivision under the Open Space Residential Design Subdivision. The Planning Board continued review into 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING BOARD

HOLDEN ACTIVE SUBDIVISIONS

<i>Name of Subdivision</i>	<i>Date Approved</i>	<i>Lots</i>	<i>Homes Built</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Wagner Meadows	07/2003	26	26	16
Stanjoy Estates	8/2005	11	11	7
Phase I				
Vista Circle (fka Deer Run) Subdivision	4/2005	36	36	15.79
Bullard Estates	4/2006	11	11	15
Wachusett Woods	4/2006	39	39	18
Hill Woods	10/2006	9 units	9	3
Stoney Brook Estates	5/2006	75	62	62
Wingspan Estates	1/8/2008	11	11	7
Greenwood Estates	3/11/2008	96	0	30
Oak Hill Subdivision	10/8/2013	55	0	84
St. Mary's Drive	5/27/2014	4	0	5

Special Permit/Site Plan Review

The Planning Board held five public hearings for site plan review/special permit applications. A site plan special permit application was approved for Kyoto Restaurant, located at 695 Main Street. An extension of time was granted for construction of 46 condominiums at the Jefferson Mill and an amendment was granted to the Hill Woods condominiums to remove the affordable housing requirement. Two site plan/special permits for the construction of common driveways were granted for property located on Salisbury Street and River Street.

Zoning Bylaws

In 2012, Massachusetts legalized medicinal marijuana; as a result, the Planning Board adopted a temporary moratorium to allow time to create successful regulation to govern the location of the facilities. These regulations were successfully adopted at the 2014 Town Meeting.

The Board continued review of the sign bylaw into 2015.

Master Plan Implementation

The Planning Board continues to play an important role in implementing goals identified in the Town of Holden's first Master Plan by the successful adoption of the Design Review Criteria within the Site Plan Bylaw, and the adoption of a ground mounted Solar Array Bylaw.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING BOARD

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; review of possible Subdivision Control amendments; Zoning By-law changes; and participation in the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). In 2013, the Planning Board worked with the CMRPC in the completion of the Central 13 Prioritization Project, which was a regional plan identifying priority development and protection areas. In 2014, the Planning Board expanded upon this plan by participating in the District Local Technical Assistance Program and examining the development potential at the Boyden Road/Main Street intersection.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pamela Harding – Conservation Agent
Matthew Kennedy – Chairman
Robert Lowell
Anthony Costello
Kenneth Strom
Michael Scott
Michael Krikonis
Luke Boucher

The Holden Conservation Commission reviews projects that are jurisdictional under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. 131 Section 40. 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.

In addition to administering the State Wetlands Protection Act, the Conservation Commission created a local Wetlands Bylaw adopted at Town Meeting in 2000. The local bylaw authorizes the Commission to implement a 100 foot buffer for all vernal pools, both certified and non-certified.

In 2014, the Commission held public hearings for: 14 Notice of Intent, 1 Extensions of Time, 3 Requests for Determinations of Applicability, and 9 Certificates of Compliance.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Ronald Spakauskas – Chairman
Silvio Annunziata – Clerk
Roy Fraser III
Fred Lonardo
James Deignan
Robert Butler (1st alternate)
Robert Ricker (2nd alternate)
Martha Grant – Part-time Secretary

The Zoning Board of Appeals 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 that 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.

In 2014, the ZBA conducted 10 meetings. The Board approved 11 variance applications and four special permit applications. One variance was denied.

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

January	Union St./Highland St.	Variance from minimum lot area requirements
	1565 Main St.	Variance for relief from front & side setback requirements in order to build a 2-car attached garage
February	177 & 179 Parker Ave.	Variance to reduce existing lot frontage in order to convey a parcel to the abutting lot owner
April	8 Spring St.	Variance for relief from exterior side yard setback requirements for above ground pool
	13 Colorado Dr.	Variance for relief from side yard and frontage setback requirements and relief for existing non-conforming lot for an addition
May	8 Cedar Rd.	Special permit for a home occupation – beauty salon
	8 Scott Ter.	Variance to allow a multi-family development in the R2 zone
June	664 Bullard St.	Variance for relief from minimum upland requirements for Lot 4A and relief from area, frontage, lot width and minimum upland requirements for the demolition of existing house and construction for a new house on Lot 4B
	2356 Main St.	Variance from lot width requirements for the construction of a new house
July	Main St.	Special permit for the construction & operation of a restaurant
September	63 Highland St.	Special permit for a home occupation
	31 January Ln.	Variance to locate the driveway on the abutting property
October	378 Malden St.	Relief from side yard setback requirements for the existing garage to allow for the subdivision of land in order to sell the property
November	Bullard St.	Special permit to operate a non-profit recreational community facility that is not a membership club and a variance for lack of frontage
	Homestead Rd.	Variance to allow the construction of a single-family home on an existing non-conforming lot

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.-Director of Public Works
Brenda J. Harvey-Office Manager
Marlene Whipple-DPW - Senior Clerk

The Holden Department of Public Works (DPW) is comprised of six Divisions: Administration; Engineering; Highway; Equipment Repair; Building & Grounds, and; Water & Sewer. 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 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

In September, long time Highway Working Foreman James Oberg retired, after 45 years of working for the Town. Mr. Oberg had a tremendous depth and breadth of knowledge of the Town and its highway infrastructure. Mr. Oberg took a great deal of pride in his work for his hometown, and he will be greatly missed by the Department of Public Works and the Town.

Upon the retirement of Mr. Oberg, John Whipple was promoted to the Highway Working Foreman position. Mr. Whipple has worked for the Highway Division for 1) years, and brings a great deal of experience, as well as new ideas to his new position.

With the promotion of Mr. Whipple, a vacant Equipment Operator II position was created. In November, Rudolfo Acuna was hired, and we welcome this experienced truck driver to the Highway Division team.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Also, a new Water Operator position was added in the Water & Sewer Division. Philip Waldo was hired in December for this position, and has enthusiastically begun his training in the operation and maintenance of the Town's Water and Sewer Systems.

Operations

The Department of Public Works had a very successful year. The winter of 2013-2014 was an extremely busy winter, with an above average number of snow and ice events, which deposited above average amounts of snow in the area for the second year in a row. Fifty-one snow and ice events occurred, which deposited 86 inches of snow. The severe cold weather conditions throughout the country caused an unprecedented rise in salt demand, which affected the Town's ability to obtain salt from its suppliers. The winter of 2014-2015 started early (in November) with a 6-inch snow storm on the day before Thanksgiving. Two medium sized water main replacement projects began in October and were completed at the end of December. One project addressed a series of small sections of pipes in roadways in the vicinity of the center of town; the other replaced a long section of pipe in Shrewsbury Street, between Doyle Road and Arizona Avenue. The Department also successfully completed its annual road and sidewalk paving program, and continued its sound maintenance of the Town's buildings, grounds, vehicles and equipment, and the water and sewer infrastructure.

Holden is fortunate 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.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Isabel McCauley – Senior Civil Engineer
Daniel Hazen – Civil Engineer II

Sewer Permitting

The 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. Sixty-nine new sewer connections were witnessed for 2014. 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 Engineering Division assisted in the inspection of 76 new water service connections. New water meters were installed by the DPW - Water & Sewer Division for each of these new services.

Water & Sewer Division staff and the Engineering Division have continued the Cross Connection Survey Program. This program is necessary to ensure that all water connections are equipped with the proper backflow and back pressure devices in order to protect Holden's water system from potential contamination. At years end, most of the Town's largest water users have been visited and necessary changes were recommended where appropriate.

Subdivisions

The Engineering Division routinely assists the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Transportation & Circulation Committee 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 Engineering 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 Engineering Division, as well as the witnessing of water and sewer main testing to ensure that the systems are free of any deficiencies. Engineering also coordinates all work and procedures associated with other DPW divisions, namely the Highway and Water & Sewer Divisions during proposed street acceptances.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Engineering Division provided inspections on several subdivisions, including Stanjoy Estates (located off of Winter Hill Road), Stonybrook Estates (located off of Reservoir Street), Fisher Terrace (located off of Fisher Street), Bullard States and Wagner Meadows (both located off of Bullard Street), Scott Terrace (located off of Scott Terrace), Winter Ridge (located off of Winter Hill Road), Wachusett Woods (located off of Highland Street) and Oak Hill (located off of Salisbury Street).

Street Opening Permits

Seventy-eight roadway opening applications were permitted for 2014. 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. NStar Gas was particularly busy making new house connections this year, which accounted for 36 percent of the total roadway opening permits.

Projects

During the spring and fall of 2014, the Division coordinated the planting of 122 trees through two separate contracts. The funds for this project were provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to communities located within the Worcester Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) quarantine area. The locations of the trees included the Damon House (2 trees), Starbard Building (2 trees), Adams Road (2 trees), Senior Center (7 trees), Mayo School (39 trees), Dawson School (4 trees), Davis Hill School (34 trees), Rice School Condominiums Park (10 trees), Trout Brook (13 trees), Old Police Building (6 trees), and Pool (3 trees). The contracts include a one year watering maintenance program.



ALB Non-Host Trees planted at Dr. Leroy Mayo School

The Division oversees and manages contracted services for all post-closure monitoring activities for the Town-owned landfill on River Street. In 2014, the Town

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

conducted Comprehensive Site Assessment (CSA) activities as required and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). These activities included the installation and sampling of additional monitoring wells, and monitoring and sampling of surface water and sediments within the leachate seeps along the Quinapoxet River banks. A report summarizing the findings of this CSA was provided to the MassDEP.

The Division manages and maintains the Town's GIS online mapping system and a web-based management system for the administration of data, assets and time resources for each of the DPW Divisions. Public service calls are managed using an online work order system.

In 2014, the Division started managing the street line painting operations. Approximately, 20 miles of roadway were painted in 2014.

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 2014 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.

During the spring of 2014, with the assistance of the DPW – Engineering Division, the DPW – Highway Division personnel performed drainage upgrades to a culvert located on South Road which involved the repair and reconstruction of the headwalls at the inlet and outlet, lining of the existing drainage pipe, and filling of the interstitial space between the pipes. This approach was selected in lieu of open excavation to avoid closing a heavy traffic roadway (Route 31) with no good detour options at this location. The replacement of a stone box culvert located on Reservoir Street, north of Bailey Road was performed following the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards. A corrugated exterior smooth interior HDPE circular pipe and headwalls were installed by means of open excavation. The new pipe provided an increase of approximately 50 percent to the existing hydraulic area. The lower 12-inches of the pipe was embedded using gravel to cobble stones with sizes ranging up to 4-inches to simulate existing river bed characteristics.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Reservoir Street stone box culvert



Reservoir Street culvert upgrades

In July 2014, the DPW – Engineering Division assisted the Light Department in the procurement of a publicly bid contract for the removal of 17 public hazard trees throughout Town.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DIVISION

Jack Cross-Superintendent of Operations
James Oberg-Highway Working Foreman (retired 9/30/14)
John Whipple-Highway Working Foreman
Stephen Nawn-Senior Equipment Operator (EO) III
John Sobol-EO III
Stephen Jenkins-EO III
Eric Fasshauer-EO II
Greg Rozak-EO II
Jon Scott-EO II
Rudolfo Acuna-EO II (hired 11/10/14)

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

In April 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) allotted \$30 million statewide for road related repairs due to the severe winter weather conditions of 2013-2014. All cities and towns were required to submit applications to DOT as part of this Winter Rapid Recovery Road Program (WRRRP) by April 30th. As part of this WRRRP, Holden's received \$91,964.00 but all work had to be completed by June 30, 2014. Due to such short time frame, it was decided to overlay approximately 5,000-feet of Reservoir Street, from the Worcester Town Line to the area of the dam at Worcester Reservoirs #1 and #2. This "Shovel Ready" project was completed successfully with 1.75-inches of overlay in early June.

The DPW - Highway Division completed two drainage related projects in 2014. The first one was upgrades to a culvert located on South Road, which involved the repair and reconstruction of the headwalls at the inlet and outlet, slip-lining of 60-feet of 24-inch pipe into the existing failing drainage pipe, and filling of the interstitial space between the pipes. This approach was selected in lieu of open excavation to avoid closing a heavy traffic roadway (Route 31) with no good detour options at this location.

The second project included the replacement of a large, failing stone box culvert located on Reservoir Street north of Bailey Road. This culvert was replaced using a 60-inch HDPE circular pipe by means of open excavation. New headwalls were reconstructed using the existing rocks, and the lower 12-inches of the pipe was embedded using gravel to cobble stones with sizes ranging up to 4-inches to simulate existing river bed characteristics. The new culvert pipe provided an increase of approximately 50 percent to the existing hydraulic area, allowing for better movement through the culvert by riparian animals and fish. The culvert replacement followed the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards. The roadway area over the culvert was repaved and guardrail was replaced.

The Highway Division performed gravel processing operations at the back of the cemetery. Existing collected materials stockpiled on the site were processed into a useable gravel material for future road projects.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Gravel Processing Operations

James Oberg retired on September 30, 2014 as the Highway Division Working Foreman, after more than 45 years working with the Town.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

The winter of 2013-2014 included 51 snow and ice response events. The winter season was memorable not for the number of large storm events but for the number of moderate storms and the severe cold weather conditions. Although, not all of these moderate storm events required plowing, most of them required salting of the entire Town because of dangerous icing conditions. For the entire 2013-2014 winter season, snowfall totaled more than 86 inches. The severe cold weather conditions not only in New England, but throughout the country, resulted in an unprecedented rise in deicing material demand, which made it difficult for the Town to obtain salt from its suppliers.

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 bylaw and fines may be assessed to violators. To assist our equipment operators during plowing

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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 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 experience dealing with winter weather conditions. During snow events it 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 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.

In May, the Highway Division solicited bids for a variety of roadway treatments, including: cold-planing (or milling); microsurface; crack sealing, and; new hot mix asphalt. Between June and October, 15 streets received some type of surface treatment. Not including streets that were crack sealed, 10.05-miles of roads were resurfaced in 2014. Each of these resurfacing projects was completed in a cost-effective and timely manner by utilizing the 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 through out 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 of compost materials at the DPW facility at Adams Road for residents to use for potting soil etc., and at no charge. Woodchips are also made available for resident use, at no charge. The DPW maintains a small quantity of winter sand/salt mix at our DPW Adams Road facility for residents to use in the winter, also.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LOCAL ROADS

2014 – HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Highway Patching

270 tons of cold patch and bituminous concrete was used to perform highway patching throughout the Town.

Berm Maintenance

420 feet of bituminous berm was repaired and/or installed during the reconstruction of various streets.

Sidewalk Maintenance and Construction

Routine “town-wide” sidewalk patching and repair was performed to existing sidewalks.

Service and Dig Safe Requests

The Highway responded to 200 service requests and 238 Dig Safe requests were processed.

Drainage

Storm drainage work included the installation, replacement and/or repair of 122 structures and 100 feet of piping on various streets as follows:

Name of Street	Structures
Juniper Lane	12
Putnam Road	3
Lowell Ave	8
Mark Circle	2
Sycamore Drive	43
Mark Bradford Drive	29
Wachusett Street	8
Butternut Circle	2
Reservoir Street	6
Town Hall	1
Tannery Drive	1
Jennifer Drive	1
Highland Avenue	2
Foxhill Drive	1
Laurelhill Lane	1
General Holes	2

Total No. of Structures: 122

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

2014 – DRAINAGE PROJECTS

South Road (Route 31): Slip line 60-feet of 24-inch pipe
Reservoir Street: Replace culvert with 40-feet of 60-inch pipe

Total feet of pipe installed: 100-feet

2014 – MICROSURFACING

Wachusett Street (Route 31):	13,425 feet x 26.5 feet	2.54 miles
Salisbury Street (2 sections):	6,378 feet x 31 feet	1.21 miles
Paxton Road (Route 31):	4,217 feet x 29 feet	0.77 miles
Fisher Road:	1,165 feet x 20 feet	0.26 miles

Total miles: 4.78 miles

2014 – COLD PLANING WITH TWO INCH – HOT MIX ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECTS

Street	Quantity	Miles
Wachusett Street	5,150' x 24'	0.98
Sycamore Drive	3,250' x 28'	0.62
Reservior Street	5,033' x 24'	0.95
Putnam Road	2,219' x 20'	0.42
Juniper Lane	1,015' x 26'	0.19
Mark Bradford Drive	2,020' x 28'	0.38
Ash Circle	260' x 28'	0.05
Butternut Circle	450' x 28'	0.09
Mark Circle	1,268' x 27'	0.24
Lowell Avenue	2,096' x 19'	0.40

Total miles: 4.32 miles

2014 – 1.75-INCH HOT MIX ASPHALT OVERLAY WRRRP PROJECT

Street	Quantity	Miles
Reservior Street	5,033' x 24'	0.95

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Highway Division completed 10.05 miles of public road surface improvements to approximately 12 percent of the total miles of public roads in Holden.

2014 – CRACK SEALING PROJECTS

Street	From	To
North Street	Entire Length	
Bryant Road	Entire Length	
Whitney Street	Entire Length	
Causeway Street	Entire Length	
Bailey Road	Putnam	Chapin Road
Wachusett Street	Chapel	Shrewsbury Street
Heather Circle	Entire Length	
Windy Ridge Road	Malden Street	Union Street
Tannery Lane	Entire Length	
Sandy Glen Road	Entire Length	
Steppingstone Drive	Entire Length	
Apple Tree Lane	Entire Length	
Harrington Drive	Entire Length	
High Ridge Road	Entire Length	
Highland Avenue	Entire Length	
Winthrop Lane	Entire Length	
Pioneer Road	Entire Length	
Kenwood Drive	Entire Length	
Malden Street	Chapel	Sewer Station
Wachusett Street	Rt 31	Union Street
Highland Street	Main	Union Street
Reservoir Street	Main	South Road
Newell Road	Main	Village Green
Salisbury Street	Pinetree	Twinbrooke Drive

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

General maintenance activities completed during 2014 includes:

- 2,008 drainage structures were cleaned and inspected
 - 118 miles of roads were swept, plowed, sanded and/or inspected for defects
 - 20 miles of sidewalks were swept and plowed.
 - Public schools including Dawson, Mayo, Davis Hill, and Mountview 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

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DIVISION

Dennis Griffin-Working Foreman
Gary Kaczmarek-Facilities Manager (part-time)
James Ringgard-EOIII
Steven DeWitt-EOIII
Daniel Deptula-EOII
Steven Stewart-Laborer/EOI
Jeffrey Riggles-Laborer
Adam Hickey-Custodian
William Martinez-Custodian

2014 Highlights

The Building & Grounds (B&G) Division 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, from May through September, are included in the Division's duties. Dennis Griffin, Jim Ringgard, and Steven DeWitt are each licensed certified pool operators.

The B&G Division completed several significant projects this past year. The first involved the repainting of the first and second floors of the Starbard Building common areas. Additionally, the offices of the Assessor and the Treasurer/Collector were painted.

The new Recreation building (the former Holden Police Station) was completely redone. Windows and doors were removed and replaced. Office spaces were designed and constructed to accommodate the new operations. The old garage area was gutted and new store front windows and doorways installed, new flooring was installed to create a studio for recreational events. All heating units were replaced with high efficiency electric units that are fed by solar power harness by the solar panels installed on the roof, thus providing "green electricity" for the building. The entire reconstruction project was completed under the direction of the Division foreman and the majority of the work done with in-house labor. At the completion of this project, the Recreation building was moved from its old location on Highland Street. New offices were also configured for IT personnel within the new Recreation building.

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, Mountview School, Dawson School, the Dawson Recreation Area, and Jefferson School field are primarily maintained by Steven Stewart. Spring and fall turf maintenance for each of these areas are performed with the assistance from other B&G Division employees. Adam Hickey maintained

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

each of the other smaller park areas with assistance from Jeffrey Riggles and William Martinez. This work also included grass mowing at the Town Hall, Starbard Building, Damon House, Hendricks House and 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 were aerated, top-dressed and over-seeded in the fall with necessary field repairs (as needed) throughout the season. The various mini-parks along Main Street were also maintained throughout the year to provide beautification to Main Street.

In conjunction with Highway Division personnel, all roadway shoulders and intersections were mowed from May through October using our CAT – Boom Flail Mower operated by Steven DeWitt. The Christmas tree program proved useful and was very well received. Staffed by B&G Division employees, 638 trees were recycled at the Adams Road - DPW Facility. 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.

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 2014, 18 cremation burials and 22 full burials occurred.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MECHANICS DIVISION

David French-Mechanic

Paul DiNoia-Mechanic

Robert Schwartz-Mechanic

The DPW - Equipment Repair Division maintains all DPW, Municipal Light, Fire, Police and general municipal vehicles, in addition to servicing each of the 26 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 more than 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 2014 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.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

Mark A. Elbag, Jr., P.E.-Water & Sewer Superintendent
Daniel Hazen-Civil Engineer II
Marlene E. Whipple-DPW Senior Clerk
Adam T. Perkins-Water & Sewer Foreman
Kenneth J. Dunn-Water & Sewer Operator III
Russell T. Henderson-Water & Sewer Operator II
Justin M. Pedersen-Water & Sewer Operator II
Joseph R. Kenney-Water & Sewer Operator II
Jesse M. Riedle-Water & Sewer Operator II
John A. DiPerrio-Water & Sewer Operator II
Phillip S. Waldo-Water & Sewer Operator I (hired 12/29/2014)

Highlights

The DPW - Water & Sewer (W&S) Division oversaw the completion of two major water main replacement projects in the fall of 2014. One water main replacement project (the Boyden Road project) was comprised of water main replacement on Boyden Road, Phillips Road, Winthrop Lane, Maple Street, Kenwood Road, and Chaffins Lane. The second water main replacement project consisted of water main replacement on Shrewsbury Street, from Doyle Road to Arizona Avenue (the Shrewsbury Street project).

The Boyden Road project was funded with a low interest loan through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF Loan). The project included replacement of water main, valves, and service lines within the roadway. The streets selected for replacement had aging water piping that were undersized, prone to leaking, and/or prone to breaking. The project also included funding an upgrade to the Water & Sewer Supervisory Controls and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer system. The SCADA system upgrade, which is still underway, is being revitalized with new software, a new location, and a connection to a backup power system.

The Shrewsbury Street project consisted of replacing aging water main prone to leaking and breaking. Shrewsbury Street is expected to be reconstructed, and the water main project was undertaken to replace the water system within the roadway prior to the road reconstruction. Final cleanup and paving for both projects are expected to be completed in the spring of 2015.

The Division conducted a Sectional Flow Monitoring Program during the late summer and early fall of 2014. The Sectional Flow Monitoring Program was funded through a grant applied for and obtained by the Division; the grant was available through the DEP Sustainable Water Management Initiative. The program included dividing the water distribution system into sections, and then measuring the water demand within each section. Sections with high overnight

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

water demanded were investigated further for leaks. The program proved to be successful in that a leak was identified in the Chaffins area and the program identified a master water meter significantly over registering water production.

The Division also applied for and received a grant through the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to reduce the Division's energy demand. The grant money will be used to install more energy efficient pump motor drives to reduce electricity use. The work is expected to be completed in early 2015.

The Division purchased listening equipment in 2014 to enable staff to conduct in-house leak detection within the water distribution system. The in-house ability to conduct leak detection is a major step toward reducing the amount of leaks within the water distribution system.

The Division received an award from the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), issued by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The award was a 2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Award. This award was issued for maintaining a consistent and optimal level of fluoride in Holden's public drinking water system. Fluoridation of the water supply provides an important public health benefit, and this award recognizes the quality work that the Water & Sewer Division performs in ensuring that the fluoride is added to the drinking water at a constant and well monitored level.

June 30, 2014 marked the end of the third full fiscal year with a new rate structure in place. This rate structure was developed by CDM Smith (formerly Camp, Dresser, and McKee, Inc.) as part of the Water and Sewer Financial Plan and Rate Analysis finalized in March of 2011. This new rate structure has proved to be successful over the course of these first three fiscal years, with the proper amount of revenues collected as anticipated.

The Town has continued with ongoing litigation against the City of Worcester and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This litigation process has been ongoing since May 2013. The litigation is in regards to the charges paid by the Town for the transport of sewage through Worcester, to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District. The litigation process will take several years before it reaches a conclusion. The potential exists for substantial cost savings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise fund, if the litigation is successful.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

General Operations

During Calendar Year 2014 the Water & Sewer Division personnel continued to diligently operate and maintain the water and sewer systems. Thirty-four water system leaks were identified and repaired (by the Division or private contractors). The Division responded to 15 water main breaks. Seventy-six new water service connections were made with new water meters, and 69 new sewer service connections were made.

The Division completed a vast number of customer service calls over the course of the year. The Division has upgraded its work order system to an electronic system to better track, record, and organize the customer service provided. Beginning in February 2014, the Division generated and responded to 336 work orders.

In addition to providing diligent service to the Town of Holden during normal business hours, Water & Sewer Division personnel were essential in providing around the clock, 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).

Water Supply

Holden produced 356.413 million gallons of water (or 74 percent of the total supply) from its four well fields. Holden purchased 122.978 million gallons of water (or 26 percent of the total supply) from the City of Worcester through the Brattle Street and Salisbury Street interconnections. In 2014, 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	176.398 million gallons	37%
Mill Street Well Field	<u>93.802 million gallons</u>	<u>20%</u>
	270.200 million gallons	56%
Mason Road Well Field	36.858 million gallons	8%
Spring Street Well	49.355 million gallons	10%
Worcester Interconnections		
Salisbury Street	15.053 million gallons	3%
Brattle Street	<u>107.925 million gallons</u>	<u>23%</u>
	122.978 million gallons	26%
Total (produced/purchased)	479.391 million gallons	100%

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Town currently operates four groundwater well fields, four water storage tanks, two interconnections with the City of Worcester, four booster pump stations, four pressure reducing/flow control vaults, and more than 105 miles of water mains of various types, sizes and ages with approximately 25 miles of cast iron water mains, 45 miles of asbestos cement water mains and 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 130,000 to 150,000 gallons per day; the Wachusett Street Water Treatment Facility, which is comprised of the two Quinapoxet gravel-packed wells and the 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 90,000 to 130,000 gallons per day. Each of the wells is treated with potassium hydroxide, which 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.

WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

The Town of Holden maintains 27 sewer-pumping stations, one sewer flow meter, and more than 78 miles of sanitary sewer mains. More than half of the Town remains on the municipal sewer system – of which 67 percent of the sanitary sewer mains are tributary to Holden's sewer-pumping stations, 31 percent discharge directly into the Rutland-Holden Trunk and Relief Sewer (RHTRS), and 2 percent 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, Mass. In doing so, the Town of Holden makes annual payments to: the DCR for the use of the RHTRS trunk line; the City of Worcester for the use of its 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 \$2.13 million in the FY2014 projected expenditures, which accounts for more than 38 percent of the projected expenditures in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

During 2014, the Town conveyed approximately 378 million gallons of sewage to the City of Worcester system for ultimate treatment at the UBWPAD treatment facility and 69 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 more than 35 years. In 2014, the treatment facility once again discharged 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. Implementing the full requirements of the permit has the potential to double the current debt service in the District's budget, and to double annual assessments to all member communities.

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."

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Selectmen/Light Commissioners

Anthony Renzoni – Chairman
Kenneth O'Brien – Vice-Chairman
Jeremy Kurtz – Clerk
Mark Ferguson
Robert Lavigne

Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board

Peter Liddy – Chairman
Scott Carlson
Donna Fitch
Gary Harrington
Thomas Runstrom
John Shepherd

History

The Holden Municipal Light Department 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 7,700 customers within the Town with annual sales exceeding \$13 million and about 100 million KWH. The Board of Selectmen acts as Light Commissioners and is assisted by the Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board, which is consulted on various Department matters.

Delivering the Power

The Town's electric distribution system is connected to National Grid's 69,000 volt (69 KV) transmission system. At the Department's two substations, Chaffins and Bullard Street, the power is “stepped-down” to the system's primary voltage of 13,800 volts (13.8 KV). From there, the network further reduces the voltage to levels that support the needs of residential, commercial and industrial customers.

The 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.

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 15 years ago, the wholesale electricity market has become increasingly complex and, on several occasions, subject to dramatic price volatility.

Despite the many changes to the industry, public power continues to be a good deal for Holden customers. The Light Department is always monitoring opportunities to

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

purchase power through contracts and/or joint ownership arrangements. Maintaining a secure, diverse, reasonably priced and carbon-neutral portfolio is a top priority.

The most recent addition to our generation portfolio is wind. The Light Department is a member of the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative that owns a 15 MW wind energy facility consisting of ten 1.5 MW wind turbines located on Brodie Mountain in Hancock, Massachusetts. The project went into service in May 2011. Holden's share is 6.8 percent or 1,022 KW. The Town's peak demand in 2014 occurred between 5:00 and 6:00 PM on January 2 when more than 22,122 KW was needed. This is the first time since 2004 that the peak did not occur during the summer.

Over the past several years, the Light Department was able to lock in a significant portion of Holden's power needs through 2018 at very attractive prices. Since about 83 percent of the Light Department's costs are purchased power, these arrangements will assist in our objective of keeping rates stable going out in time.

Rate Study and Power Cost Adjustment

A comprehensive cost of service study and rate analysis was completed in 2009 and went into effect in October of that year. One component of the Light Department's rate structure is an adjustable component that tracks the cost of purchased power. This power cost adjustment (PCA) was reduced three times in 2010, resulting in an overall reduction in the cost to customers by 12 percent to 14 percent. Rates were reduced once again in January 2011 to eliminate the temporary surcharge that was put in place following the ice storm in December 2008. The PCA rate was reduced once again in August 2013 and total rate reductions since 2010 exceed \$7.0 million. Due to the extreme cold winter of 2013-14 and extremely high cost of power, the PCA rate was increased by 7.7% in July 2014 to recover higher costs and provide additional revenues to cover anticipated costs during the winter of 2014-15. Even with this increase, rates at the end of 2014 were still 11% lower than the spring of 2010.

Renewable Energy Trust / Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Projects

In 2009, the Board of Light Commissioners and Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board authorized the Light Department to join the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC). When the Light Department joined, the MTC was directing the activities of the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust. (The Trust has since been transferred to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center – MassCEC.) Through the Renewable Energy Trust, grants and financial assistance are now available to Light Department customers and businesses to install alternative energy projects such as solar panels, wind turbines and geo-thermal. As of 2014, more than \$105,000 in rebates had been awarded to Holden customers. At the end of 2014, there were 45 photovoltaic (PV) systems in place, or under construction in Town. The Light Department's net metering program provides customers full value for all excess energy delivered to the electric system. In addition to the residential systems, there are PV systems in place at the Senior Center and Light Department office, with a system being installed at the new Recreation Department office. A large commercial scale system is in place at the City of Worcester's water treatment plant in the southwest corner of the Town with a large additional array being installed in 2015.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Major Projects

2011 was the first year of a multi-year program to replace aging equipment and strengthen the electric system. In 2011, two new large transformers were installed at the Bullard Street substation, replacing the old refitted units. The new units are larger and much quieter.

Several switching systems at the Chaffins substation were updated or replaced in 2011 and 2012. Several aging vehicles, which are the backbone of day to day operations, have been or are being replaced.

About \$200,000 is being spent annually reinforcing several of the Light Department's major electric circuits, making them stronger and less likely to be damaged during weather events. The experiences of Tropical Storm Irene and the October snow storm in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 have shown the value of strengthening the overhead circuits, in that there was not a great deal of damage to our system in either storm. (Power was lost to the Town, however, as transmission lines, not owned or operated by us, failed in 2011 and 2012.) Although the winter of 2015 set records for cold and snowfall, there was very little disruption to the electric system. Another valuable asset is having an in-house, fully-dedicated tree crew, which supports a robust tree trimming program.

Payments to Town

The Department is fully committed to supporting services provided by taxpayer dollars. Each year, the Department reimburses the Town for services rendered from various departments. In 2014, that amounted to more than \$163,000 for services rendered by the Treasurer/Collector, Accounting, Town Manager, Information Technology, Public Works and Police Departments. The Light Department also funds the CodeRED emergency notification system at a cost of about \$8,000 per year.

The Department also makes a payment in lieu of taxes to the Town each year, based on the net value of HMLD's plant in service. Payment in lieu of taxes for 2014 was \$135,629.

Ongoing Initiatives

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

- Energy Conservation – The Department continued to offer the Residential Conservation Service Program, a state-wide 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. A conservation program for commercial customers was implemented in 2013.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

- Appliance Rebate Program – The appliance rebate program encourages consumers to purchase energy efficient appliances. The Department gives rebates, in the form of credits to customer electric accounts, for purchase of energy efficient (*Energy Star* rated) refrigerators, clothes washers, air conditioners, dishwashers, and dehumidifiers. The rebate is meant to make-up the difference between a less expensive model and the *Energy Star* rated efficient product.
- School Outreach – Educational safety and conservation programs at the Town's three elementary schools were continued. More than 700 students in Grades K, 3 and 5 participated.
- Key Accounts Program – The Department continued, through the assistance of a consultant, to develop the Light Department's business relationships with its largest customers or its key accounts. In general, a few dozen large manufacturing/industrial and commercial customers represent 20 percent of the Light Department's annual electric sales. It is in the best interests of the Department and the Town to foster productive working partnerships with key customers and to address their unique needs. In 2015, the Light Department and DPW installed underground conduit in the Industrial Park and made it available to a local cable company to install fiberoptic/cable service to customer, greatly enhancing the Internet and telephone connectivity for customers in the Park.
- 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 has 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, the Light Department again sponsored a senior luncheon at the Holden Senior Center. Department staff had an opportunity to serve and dine with Holden seniors to become better acquainted and to promote increased communication between the Department and its senior customers. Once again the Senior Center staff, DPW staff and friends assisted in providing a delicious meal.

The Department works closely with customers who need assistance with paying their electric bills. Staff can also provide referrals to residents who may wish to apply for direct assistance through other local or state agencies. In 2014, the Department once again included envelopes in monthly bills to solicit donations to the Town's Help at H.O.M.E./Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund, 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

Looking Ahead

The plan for 2015 is a continuation of the past several years. Solid growth in electric sales in 2014 with modest growth anticipated in the next several years, coupled with stable power supply costs, support solid and predictable revenues and expenses. It also includes several new initiatives that will:

1. Provide better services to customers, such as paperless billing;
2. Prepare for the pending retirement of several senior linemen; and
3. Provide additional IT support for growing and more complicated systems.

Revenue growth and cost reductions in other areas will allow for the inclusion of these new initiatives without impacting customer rates.

Starting in 2013, the debt on the Seabrook and Millstone 3 projects began to be paid off. By mid-2018, all debt will be paid off, resulting in more than \$1 million of annual savings from today's level. Since that point is still several years away, the Light Department is looking at ways to stabilize its rates such that it can mitigate or avoid near term cost increases by utilizing its rate stabilization fund, if need be.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

HMLD would like to acknowledge its very capable operations and office staff. The operations staff, led by Superintendent Mike Flagg, is made up of line crew members, a forestry team and meter reader. Residents will see them often out in the field or perhaps working in neighborhoods repairing overhead and underground facilities, maintaining or upgrading the many miles of electric distribution facilities (more than 134 miles of overhead distribution lines), trimming and removing trees or reading meters. HMLD thanks them for their dedication and recognize the talents they bring to a job that sends them out in all kinds of weather conditions, and calls upon them to do emergency work, around the clock, year-round.

The helpful and knowledgeable staff in the office, led by Teresa Montoya, continues to serve the public. The office staff handles 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 the entire office staff for its hard work and team spirit.

Administration

Jim Robinson-General Manager
Mike Flagg-Superintendent
Teresa Montoya-Business Office Manager
Lori Ensom-Financial Consultant (part-time)

Office Staff

Donna Cross-Customer Service Representative/Collections
Sandi Tremblay-Customer Service Representative/General
Paula Howell-Customer Service Representative/General
Rob Gorton-Customer Service Representative/General
Cheri Kerxhalli-Senior Bookkeeper
Rick Grensavitch-Custodian (part-time)

Line Personnel

Brian Hickey-Service Foreman
Barry Tupper-Line Foreman
Mike Griffin-Construction Foreman
Larry Josti-First Class Lineman
Joe Hand-First Class Lineman
Nate Campaniello-First Class Lineman
Eric Horn -Third Class Lineman
Robert Rambone-Groundman
Derek Peto-Groundman
Kyle Grendell-Forestry Foreman
Shane Lavoie-Forestry Apprentice
Bob Oliver-Meter Reader/Tester

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 reliable and secure supply of electric energy at a reasonable cost.
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 VETERANS SERVICES

The Veterans' Department is under the direction of Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Local veterans' agents direct the veterans' benefits program, which is a joint program between 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.



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, 44 Front Street, Worcester. Veterans wishing to file for health care benefits can do so at the VA Medical facility, 605 Lincoln Street, Worcester. We hope to assist some veterans, their families or widows of veterans with their monthly expenses only temporarily. Any veterans benefits expended through the town are reimbursed by the state at a rate of 75 percent.

HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL ON AGING – SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

Jacquelyn Kelly –Town Manager and Director of Human Services
Louise Charbonneau – Director, Senior Services
Maureen Buffone – Secretary
Naomi Sohlman – Transportation Coordinator
Clare Nelson – Activities Coordinator, Part-Time
Paula Earley – Outreach Worker, Part-Time
Cynthia L. Smith – Outreach Worker, Part-Time
James Wells – Van Driver, Part-Time
Mary Sloan – Van Driver, Part-Time
George Warden – Van Driver, Part-Time
Robert Giannotti – Van Driver, Part-Time
Lawrence Pierce – Van Driver, Part-Time
Marjeanne Adels – Van Escort, Part-Time (retired)
Ernest Diesslin – Van Escort, Part-Time (retired)

The purpose 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. Information and referral services and support groups are available.

The Senior Center is a focal point for Holden's 60-and-older population. Seniors come for socialization, meals, education, health and legal clinics, exercise programs, special events and cultural programs. Senior Center programming included: quilting; Pitch; Bridge; Mah Jong; Cribbage; Billiards; Meals on Wheels; Congregate Luncheon Program; movies; blood pressure clinics; Care Givers Support Group; free legal, tax, and insurance counseling programs; health clinics; strength training; yoga; transportation; friendly visitors; RUOK; Book Express; outreach; activities and recreation; arts & crafts classes; community education; computer classes; information and referral; walking; day trips; entertainment and a book discussion group.



Special events included: the Friends of the Council on Aging Annual Cookie Sale; Valentine's Day party; St. Patrick's Day party; VNA Wellness Services; Senior Prom; Strawberry Social; annual picnic; Summer Social; Light Department Luncheon; home cooked meals; Volunteer Recognition Luncheon; Best of Friends Craft Fair; Veteran's Luncheon/Recognition; Christmas party and New Years Eve party. The Senior Center received generous donations from the Friends of the Council on Aging to enhance these programs for Holden's elders.

Intergenerational programs included the pen-pal program. This year, the Senior Center matched 88 Mayo Elementary School third graders with 88 seniors. They

HUMAN SERVICES SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES

exchanged letters bi-monthly and met twice during the school year. In the fall, the seniors travelled to the Mayo School, and thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Holden Council on Aging, the children visited the Senior Center in June. Several volunteers created monthly favors for the trays of each of the Meals on Wheels clients. The Friends of the Holden Council on Aging co-sponsored, with the Mountaineer Volunteers from Wachusett Regional High School, to provide a "Senior Prom" dinner dance for area seniors. The Center has also been fortunate to coordinate with the Holden Professional Firefighters for some of its programs.



Outreach programs ranged from free legal, tax, and insurance counseling, and blood pressure and flu shot clinics to the Book Express (in cooperation with the Gale Free Library) and the RUOK telephone reassurance program. Also, the Wachusett Food Pantry set aside a special distribution day for seniors each month.

This year, the Center partnered with the Holden Fire Department in being granted monies through the Department of Fire Services' new SAFE for Seniors grant. Three informative programs were offered: "Slips, Trips and Falls," the "Importance of Files of Life" and "Fire Safety in the Home."

This year volunteers provided roughly 15,231 hours of service saving the Town approximately \$258,927. Volunteer positions include: activity leaders; craft instructors; Meals on Wheels drivers; kitchen workers; board members; computer consultants and teachers; tax consultants; attorneys; nurses; friendly visitors; Book Express and Food Pantry deliveries; entertainers, and pen pals, to name a few. The Senior Center can always use volunteers of any age and would welcome new volunteers at any time.

Besides the Town budget monies, the Center received a Formula Grant of \$25,088 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. These monies were used to subsidize the salaries of the van drivers; allowed the Center to add extra outreach hours; pay dues to professional organizations; supplement van rides to the meal site and for participation in Senior Center events/classes; volunteer recognition events; and provide education and training for the staff. The Center also received considerable support from the Friends of the Holden Council on Aging. The Friends funding went toward paying half of the postage for the Center's monthly newsletter, as well as special events and programming. The Friends group works very hard to raise funds

HUMAN SERVICES SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES

used to enhance programming. Our thanks also go to Oriol Healthcare who sponsored a new fitness class call Spring Chicken Fitness, the Holden Professional Firefighters, the Holden Cultural Council, Holden Municipal Light Department, the students and staff of Mountview Middle School, the Mountaineer Volunteers at Wachusett Regional High School and the Wachusett Area Rotary Club for their generosity in sponsoring special events for Holden's elders.

The Holden Council on Aging board and staff would like to thank the community for its continued support of the Senior Center and elders of Holden.

****SERVICES PROVIDED FOR FY 2014***

****Approximate Numbers***

Holden's Elder Population 60+	4,002
Elders Served	1,282
General Information	11,855
Food Shopping	599
Health Screening & Services	872
Fitness/Exercise	3,653
Intergenerational	2,916
Educational Programs	1,926
Congregate Meals	6,789
Meals on Wheels	9,689
Transportation	6,172
Newsletter	22,080
Recreation	9,523
Tax Help	104
Volunteer Hours 2014	15,231

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Denise M. Morano - Recreation Director
Wendy J. Nickel - Recreation Leader
Angela T. Greene - Senior Clerk



After many years and many different office spaces, the Holden Recreation Department has finally settled into a new recreation facility that is clean, comfortable, warm and inviting. The Department has ample office and storage space upstairs. The two downstairs garages have been converted into a recreation studio, which already hosts a new and exciting wrestling program for 50 young athletes. Having its own program space allows the Recreation Department to offer classes during the daytime and evening hours, without worry of

getting bumped because the host building needs the space. Thanks go to everyone involved with the idea of re-using the former police station for the Recreation Department headquarters, and to those involved in the unbelievable renovations that took place over a four-month period.

The Before and After School programs at the three elementary schools continue to be a great place for working parents to drop off their children in the mornings or have them stay after school, or both. The programs at each school are licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care, and have a maximum capacity of 52 children in the morning and 52 children in the afternoon. The programs currently care



for 288 children daily. During the summer, the Recreation Department offers an all-day Summer Program, with a licensed capacity of 65 children per week. The staff provides a safe, fun and nurturing environment with many different activities for the children. Staff members are attentive, caring, animated and enthusiastic when interacting with the children, and thoroughly enjoy being with them. The Recreation Department is extremely fortunate to have such a hard-working group of people overseeing the care of these children.

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION DEPARTMENT

41,000 visitors to the pool this summer, certainly speaks volumes about the successes the Recreation Department has experienced over the 2014 summer. The Department also had 1,629 children enrolled in one or more of its numerous classes, whether it was a swim lesson, tennis lesson, arts & crafts class, basketball lesson or drama class. The staff is comprised of dedicated, responsible young adults with a true passion to teach the children, and help them develop the skills they will need so that they can enjoy these leisure time activities throughout their lifetime.

The Recreation Department offers an array of classes for the adult population, ranging from aerobics to Zumba, which have all been very well received. The Recreation Department plans on expanding its classes, not only for adults, but to include pre-schoolers and teens, as well. The Department is always looking for talented individuals who would like to showcase their special craft by teaching others. Whether you are looking for Before or After School childcare, a place to swim, a place to get some good physical exercise, or a place to meet some new people, call the Recreation office. The benefits of Recreation are endless...

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SEASONAL and PART-TIME STAFF

HEAD LIFEGUARDS

Liz Ebbrecht
Alisa White

WSI/LIFEGUARDS

Abby Ebbrecht
Abby Ebbrecht
Alexis Hoffey
Amanda Hoffey
Catherine Hughes
Mary McCarthy
Nolan Ryan
Patrick Ryan

LIFEGUARDS

Kayla Fontaine
Conor Hanlon
Deidre Hennessy
Katie Horrigan
Shannon Kelley
Dan McGrath
Riley Moore
Celina Stacy
Connor Stark

GAMES GALORE

Megan Amaral

PASS CHECKER

Brian Lindberg
Katherine Lindberg
Mariessa Ricciardi
Taylor Tomasso

HALF DAY PROGRAM

Lexie Atkins
Brittany Benoit
Shannon Goodhile
Kaylin Hauge
Nick Marconi
Amanda Rollins

BASKETBALL

Craig Mattson

DRAMA

Allie Zeena

ALL DAY PROGRAM

Heather Sue Braley
Caitlin Goodhile
Michaela Goodhile
Amelia Hirtle
Abbey Murphy
Samantha Murphy
Emily Oliver
Tyler Rosseland
Maria Russo

CRAFTS

Sarah Matys
Mackenzie Ryan

TENNIS

Paul Burgholzer
Sarah Conger
Olivia Hart

SNACK BAR

Ryan Blake Brenda French
Abby DeNorscia Emily Spakauskas

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF

Anne Atkins
Britt Benoit
Colleen Brennan
Alexandra Champlin
Kate Conlon
Georgie DeWitt
Brenda French
Olivia Gibbs
Shannon Goodhile
Amelia Hirtle
Donna Horsfall
Frank Kopeski
Carol Leslie
Cindy Maki
Emily McCarthy
Julia Morrison
Emily Oliver
MaryJane Quist
Mackenzie Ryan
Muriel Ventres

Lexie Atkins
Beverly Berthel
Cara Cammuso
Marie Clemente
Nancy Corrigan
Jennifer Dupont
Katie Gauthier
Judi Gluck
Emily Henderson
Katie Horrigan
Alyssa Kelley
Ginger Kopeski
Katherine Lindberg
Nick Marconi
Mike McCarthy
Mary Morse
Kate (KP) Putnam
Amanda Rollins
Emily Spakauskas
Allison Zeena

NEW CLASSES & INSTRUCTORS

Beginner's Running Training Program
Youth Wrestling
Re-Shape
CCYO

Marjorie Numan
Andy Meier
Nina Cerviatti
Marty French

ONGOING CLASSES & INSTRUCTORS

3CPYo; Yoga for Everybody
Hatha Yoga
Beginner's Golf
Zumba; Tai Chi
Men's Basketball
Women's Volleyball
Cross Country Skiing

Marty French
Marty Twomey
Holden Hills
Nina Cerviatti
Mark Haynes
Marcia Sherbourne
Karl Makela

CULTURE GALE FREE LIBRARY

Susan Scott - Director



Damon Memorial Building 1888

The Gale Free Library is in constant use and has consistent growth each year while maintaining a vibrant and current collection that reflects the community. The Gale Free Library belongs to the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing network, known also to our patrons as CW/MARS. This network allows library users access to hundreds of Massachusetts' Libraries materials, which can be reserved from any computer with Internet access and a library card. A continuing effort is being made to develop a broad E-Book and E-Audio Book collection, through CW/MARS and locally.

Computer usage is on a steady incline due to limited resources at home and the advent of wireless. The library has become a destination for those who own their own mobile devices and those who have no Internet access outside of the library. New databases include Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, Universal Class, Rocket Languages. The reference department is always eager to assist patrons with any kind of questions, including a broad range of technical questions.

The Children's Department has an excellent collection of books, DVDs and audio books which reflect the current curriculum of the school district, as well as popular titles for pleasure reading. In addition to serving those who visit the library, the children's librarian visited individual classes in the elementary schools to promote reading and library use. The Gale Free Library is committed to educating children about the various ways reading and libraries can affect success.

The Children's Department also provides year-round programs for children ages newborn to 12 years. Among those programs offered are: morning and evening story times, a winter reading program, family dinner and movies nights, writing workshops, crafts activities and scavenger hunts.

CULTURE GALE FREE LIBRARY

A new area was designated for the Young Adult collection, complete with furniture and computer access. Special attention is given to the Young Adult collection as it had become a major reading crossover section with adults.

The Gale Free Library is also committed to creating a vibrant and engaging adult collection. Fiction and non-fiction bestsellers are purchased in multiples for maximum availability. First-time authors and small independent presses are encouraged in the collection.

The Friends of the Library and other volunteers are the backbone of the library. The Book Cellar bookstore continues to thrive and has raised much needed money for library programming. This year, the Friends funded a new and very popular museum pass collection (patrons can check out a variety of passes to local museums for free). Also, the Friends brought in authors and local interest groups to give educational and exciting programs. The Friends of the Gale Free Library create a community spirit, and enhance the role the library plays in the community. The fundraising done by the Friends of the Library is vital to the diversity of Gale Free Library's programming. Other programs that continued this year were Food for Fines, Summer Music Series, Cooking, Art Exhibits, Local History Tours; and Book Express, which lends to the homebound in cooperation with the Senior Center.



The Board of Trustees is a group of elected officials who serve on the governing board of the library. The Board supports the annual budget request, addresses the needs of the library and keeps policy current. Board meetings are on the third Thursday of the month.

The library wishes to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for their continued support of the library's services and vision for Holden. The library also would like to recognize Town Manager Jacquelyn Kelly for her support of the Gale Free Library. The director, staff and trustees would also like to highlight the dedicated work of the Buildings and Grounds crew who make us look good every day.

CULTURE GALE FREE LIBRARY

Gale Free Library Staff

Jennifer Rhoades
Beverly Dinneen
Al Ealy
Joyce Golden
Caitlin McKeon
Nancy Gunther
Nancy Richards
Christine Roy
Spencer Perry

Barbara Oberlin
Kim Challenger
Rachel Mimms
Susan Dupsha
Carolyn Passey
Carol Bradway
Veronica BeJune
Christine McKernan

Board of Trustees

Stephanie Borg - Chairman
Alan Degutis
Virginia Powell-Frasier
Constance Marr
Richard Maurer
Nina Mazloff

CULTURE CULTURAL COUNCIL

Mary E. L. Shepherd-Chairman
Jane Becker
Mary Copeland
Simon Gregory
Nancy Rocheleau
Kathleen Welsh

The Holden Cultural Council (HCC) is a five to seven member commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Its goal is to promote community access to education, diversity and appreciation of and through the arts, humanities and sciences. Grants given by the Council to organizations and individuals are intended to be used to improve the quality of life for all Holden residents and to encourage successful applicants to continue with their careers or missions.

The Holden Cultural Council receives its funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) in one lump sum every year. Although the Council accepts grant applications from submitters from Holden and throughout the region, projects funded MUST ultimately benefit the Holden community. The submission deadline is October 15 and is advertised through public notices and the local media. Applications for funding can be obtained at the Gale Free Library or can be found on-line at <http://www.mass-culture.org>.

Two public meetings are held by the HCC in the fall. One is an informational opportunity for the public to learn about grants. The other is when the Council reviews and awards grants. These are also advertised through public notices and local media.

Types of grants funded include:

- . . . a project generated by the Holden Cultural Council
- . . . an artist sponsored by and providing a service to a Holden organization.
- . . . individuals and organizations can apply for money to bring programs, groups, instructors or performers to Holden or a Holden organization.

CULTURE CULTURAL COUNCIL

2014 Specifics

This year, Holden's allocation from MCC together with money not used in prior cycles and reverted back to the HCC was approximately \$6,000. Of the 14 applications received, the HCC approved eight totaling \$5,867. This preliminary approval was based on the content of the application and new programs. Grants were fully and partially funded. As in past years, the Council chose to fund a variety of population sectors i.e. preschoolers; elementary, middle and high school students, and senior citizens. The following are samples of the grants approved:

Wachusett Regional High School: Sculptural Bookmaking & Art if Zach Giallongo

Gale Free Library: Every Hero Has A Story

Council on Aging/Steve Henderson: Mabel & Jerry

Holden Women Club: 100th Anniversary Book

White Oak: Wildlife Saturdays

Holden Band Stand: Mud Puddle Stomp

Audio Journal: The Cultural Bridge

CULTURE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Charles T. Skillings - Chairman
Ida J. Nystrom
Louise L. Hugo
Nancy Rocheleau
James Brantl

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

Educational Brochure

The Commission continues to work on a walking tour brochure of the center of town. The brochure will highlight historical and architecturally significant buildings and sites within walking distance of the town common.

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. A long range goal will be to computerize the inventory and make it more usable by the public.

Hendricks House

The Holden Historical Commission is pleased to be working in cooperation with the Holden Historical Society in many areas of local history. Volunteers from the Holden Historical Society allow the Hendricks House to be open most Saturdays throughout the year.



Third grade classes from Mayo, Dawson, and Davis Hill Elementary Schools visited the Hendricks House as part of their local history studies at school.

Two local Cub Scout Packs were also given tours of the house.

The 35th Annual Hendricks House Flea Market was held in August in conjunction with the annual Holden Days celebration on the front and side lawns of the Hendricks House.

The Hendricks House also hosted local artist Art Bodwell for the tenth and last Holden Art Ride in November.

In December of this year, with the cooperation of the Holden Garden Club, the Hendricks House was decorated inside for the holidays and open for Holden's second Winter Festival celebration.

CULTURE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Hendricks House is open most Saturday mornings and hardly a week goes by that we greet someone who has never been to Hendricks House before. This has been accomplished through the efforts of a small group of dedicated volunteers.

Holden Historical Commission Meetings

The Holden Historical Commission meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Hendricks House, 1157 Main Street. The public is invited to attend.

CULTURE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Lance Lazar – Chairman
Lawrence Kowalczyk – Interim Chairman/Member
Susan Kowalczyk
Michelle Leveillee
Jeff deValdivia
Nicholas Langhart

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. These certificates must be obtained before work can proceed. The specific boundaries of the districts and the Commission's procedures are reviewed within Holden's town website and literature is available at both the Town Hall and the Gale Free Library.



2014 was a very productive year for the Holden Historic District Commission. Our bronze plaque project has been completed. Six plaques have been placed to designate the boundaries of Holden's Historic Districts, and a larger bronze plaque was placed at the Damon House on the corner of Main Street and Highland Street. Remaining funds were used for the landscaping at the Damon House. Many thanks to all the town employees who

helped us accomplish our goal.

The HHDC was in receipt of four applications in 2014. During the month of February, the Commission received an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Holden Garden Club asking to replace the existing flower boxes located at the Town Hall. The application was approved and the project has been completed. The Commission thanks the members of the Garden Club for their time and effort with filling the boxes every year. Also received that month was an application for a Certificate of Hardship from the Baptist Church requesting to replace the existing

CULTURE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

wood siding (after necessary repairs) with vinyl siding. This application, after much deliberation, was denied.

In April, the Commission received an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Gale Free Library to replace three deteriorating wood benches with new metal benches. This application was approved.

In July, the Commission received a second application from the Baptist Church. This was for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace existing, nonfunctioning metal gutters and downspout with new aluminum ones. The application was approved.

In response to questions and requests from homeowners and organizations within the Historic District, the members of the HHDC compiled a list of funding sources and ideas for maintaining the historic character of Holden's historic buildings. There is a link to this document on the Holden Historic District Commission's website.

Lance Lazar, the chairperson of the HHDC, took a leave of absence starting in August. We look forward to his return in May 2015. Larry Kowalczyk volunteered to step in as interim chairperson until Lance's return.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND BOARD

Deborah Williams McDonnell - Chair
Peter Lacy
Edmond G. Benoit
Paul Challenger
James Dunn
Dawn Michanowicz
Al Berg

The Infrastructure Investment Fund (The IIF) was created in 1993 by Holden voters and by a special act of the Massachusetts Legislature. Its purpose is to enable Holden citizens to regularly set aside monies to support capital projects and to recommend the use of those monies for needed capital improvements.

The purpose of the Fund is best captured in this mission statement:

- . to identify and prioritize those municipal needs that will enhance the quality of life for Holden citizens
- . to establish financial policies and funding strategies to support the infrastructure needs of the community

The Fund is managed by a seven-member Board of Trustees, appointed by the Town Moderator. Of the seven trustees, at least four shall be members of the Town's Finance Committee. The Board serves as an advisor to Town Treasurer Sharon Lowder, who supervises the assets of the Fund. The Board must approve all appropriations from the Fund. All expenditures must be approved at a Town Meeting by a two-thirds vote, also.

The Trustees of the Fund and Town Meeting voters have supported six projects to date:

- . \$1,600,000 for debt service on the Main Street underground utility project. (paid in full)
 - . \$ 960,000 for purchase of land for the Davis Hill School and recreation area. (paid in full)
 - . \$1,500,000 for the construction of the new Senior Center. (paid in full)
 - . \$125,000 for repair of town buildings (paid in full)
 - . \$2,500,000 for the replacement of the swimming pool at the Dawson Recreation Center
 - . \$6,940,500 toward the construction of a Public Safety (Police and Fire) Facility
- Funding for the first five of these projects has been successfully completed and the town is enjoying the improvements.

The Fund's initial capital was a one-time transfer of about \$400,000, voted at the 1994 Town Meeting. This was money that had been earmarked for specific capital projects (library reconstruction, for example) that were no longer needed. In 1994, and

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND BOARD

in subsequent years, there have been regular appropriations voted at annual Town Meetings. The Fiscal 2014 appropriation was 416,014.00

Expenditures from the Fund in Fiscal Year 2014 totaled \$544,449.00: \$219,449 for the Dawson pool, \$325,000 for the Public Safety Building. Investment earnings for Fiscal 2013 were \$13,273. The ending fund balance was \$1,454,821.34

The Trustees witnessed the grand opening of the Public Safety Building in the fall of 2010. It was completed below budget, is an attractive addition to the town, and will provide years of service and enhance the well-being of our citizens. We are proud to have helped in the process.

The Trustees will continue to analyze, identify and prioritize what we believe to be the major infrastructure needs of our town. We hope to consider the recommendations of the new Capital Planning Committee in that process.

The Trustees voted to discontinue the concept of a sub fund.

In the mode similar to other major capital programs (e.g. financing new schools), the Fund's viability rests on continuing financial support from the Town's annual operating budget. To date the Finance Committee, Holden Selectmen and voters have provided needed support through annual appropriations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

250TH ANNIVERSARY PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Marilynn Foley - Chairman
Roy Fraser III
Jane Becker

The 250th Permanent Gift Committee was created after Holden's 250th Anniversary in 1991. Its goal was to decide on a permanent gift to the Town of Holden in celebration of that anniversary. The Bandstand was constructed from leftover funds raised for the anniversary. There were many volunteer hours and material donated for the construction of the Bandstand.

Sunday evening concerts during the months of July and August have been held there since 1992. The Committee starts planning for the concerts in late fall and early winter, and has relied on community sponsors to fund the concerts, although it has become increasingly more difficult to completely fund the concerts. The Committee passes "the hat" at each concert to collect additional funds. Each holiday season, a Christmas tree is donated as a centerpiece in the Bandstand. The Committee also raises funds through the Light-A-Light program each Christmas as donors "light a light" in memory of, in honor of and in support of the Bandstand programs. Those donors are listed on the Town of Holden website, www.holdenma.gov.

The Committee is very grateful to all those who have supported the Bandstand and the programs for 22 years. The Committee is also grateful to its audiences and the friendship we have with them.

2014 Concerts

Dana Lewis sponsored by Harrington Oil

Rachael Landry and Western Partners

The Main Event, Featuring William Sbrogna and the Solid Gold Singers

Rick Barron and the Quavers

Wachusett Community Band sponsored by Oriol Health Care

The Shakers

Jumpin Juba

Partial Sponsors: Alden Research Laboratory, Inc.
Janice Mitchell Real Estate
Miles Funeral Directors
Sunnyside Ford

COMMITTEE REPORTS WATER SEWER ADVISORY BOARD

Eugene Stirchak – Chairman
Brian Forts
John Michalak
Mark Johnson
Lawrence Kowalczyk
James Brantl

The role of the Water & Sewer Advisory Board (WSAB) is to report to and advise the Town Manager on all topics relating to water and sewer services provided to the Town of Holden. Membership on the Board has not changed during the year.

The Board has continued to monitor the revenue of the Water & Sewer (W&S) Enterprise Fund as it marked the third full year the current rate structure has been in place. The Advisory Board continues to find that the current rate structure ensures proper funding of the W&S Enterprise Fund so that the drinking water supply and sewage transport services provided to Holden residences and businesses remains safe, stable, and dependable.

In reviewing the four revenue elements of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget (fixed water and sewer charges, variable water and sewer rates) against projected costs, no change to the water or sewer rates were recommended. Connection and I&I (Infiltration and Inflow) fees were the main drivers to funding the stabilization (reserve) accounts being built up for ameliorating unplanned large rate and emergency charges to the Water & Sewer Division. Additionally, progress continues to be made toward the implementation of the 5-year capital improvement plan, which began in 2012. It was noted that replacement of 6- to 8-inch diameter AC water mains, such as those in Shrewsbury Street, occurred in 2014.

The EPA has issued an Administrative Consent order to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District mandating further reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the discharge from the plan. This will substantially raise sewer costs starting most likely in three to five years. Monitoring of this situation will continue.

Two additional areas of concern for the future of W&S Division were regularly present on the WSAB agenda. Unaccounted for Water (UAW) was raised as topic of interest and culminated in a presentation to the Board of Selectmen in October. Plans to reduce the UAW continue to be reviewed and discussed and the results from completed work monitored. Of note is the work funded through a SWWI grant to monitor water flow in sections of Holden's water mains. Significant indications of leaks were detected in Jefferson, Chaffins, and Salisbury areas; a sizable leak was found in the Chaffins area (Cook Street) and subsequently the discovery of another leak in the Salisbury area. Also of concern to the Board of Selectmen and the WSAB has been the maintenance and calibration of water meters, especially large capacity meters. Monitoring by the WSAB will continue of the coordinated efforts to reduce UAW.

COMMITTEE REPORTS WATER SEWER ADVISORY BOARD

Second, repetitive efforts to reduce dissolved iron and manganese coming from the Spring Street Well have not had the desired effect; the situation is being watched, especially in light of concerns voiced by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as well as new DEP regulations being developed that will require lower manganese levels in drinking water.

The WSAB did not delve into two areas of previous concern in 2014. The Board of Selectmen has taken assumed responsibility for the Transport Fee discussions/litigation with the City of Worcester. While sewer flows have not been an agenda item as the concern over reaching and exceeding contractual capacity limits has abated, potential interest in this area by other boards suggests the WSAB should be aware of the current status.

The WSAB continues to meet regularly to discuss all operational aspects of the W&S Division. Besides those issues given above, discussions have included reducing Infiltration and Inflow in the sewer system; understanding water system breaks and leaks; reviewing concerns voiced by Holden citizens with W&S services; capital planning; yearly budgeting; and performance of the W&S Division to yearly financial and project plans. The WSAB remains 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, and with planning for the future water and sewer requirements of the Town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRANSPORTATION CIRCULATION COMMITTEE

James Kempton - Chairman
Robert Ferguson
Steve Mentzer
Isabel McCauley, P.E. – ex-officio
John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E. – ex-officio

The Transportation / Circulation Committee had two public meetings in 2014. The Committee is an advisory committee to the Town Manager, town departments, and other committees regarding projects that have impacts on the normal and safe vehicle, pedestrian and other modes of transportation and traffic flow throughout Holden. The Department of Public Works Engineering Division provides guidance and input to the Committee. The Committee reviews the requests and needs for traffic lights, traffic light sequencing, sidewalks, crosswalks, signage, road closures, etc. and forwards its recommendations to the appropriate body through the senior civil engineer. The Committee also reviews and makes recommendations for preliminary and definitive plans for new subdivisions when requested by the Planning Board.

Topics discussed at the Committee meetings included: St. Mary's Drive layout design (a four lot subdivision); Wachusett Valley Estates definitive subdivision plan and Open Space Rural Development (OSRD); Route 31 Corridor Study by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Committee (CMRPC); River Street bridge reconstruction design; and Wachusett Street bridge repairs.

In July, the CMRPC provided a copy of the final report of the Walkable Communities/Neighborhood SAFE workshop conducted in the center of Town and the Davis Hill Elementary School area on August 27, 2013. The final report included short, middle and long-term recommendations. Many of the short-term recommendations had been completed during 2014.

The Committee continuously examines and makes recommendations for safe and efficient vehicle and pedestrian flow. Any input that citizens wish to make is always most welcome. For questions or comments contact the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works at (508) 210-5550 or email at imccauley@holdenma.gov.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Denise Cummings – Chair
Michael Antinarella
Erich Mierzejewski
Maleah Gustafson
James Dunn
Jonathan Hart
Judith Haran

The Agricultural Commission's 2014 initiative was to increase its visibility within the community. This was accomplished through the completion and posting "Right To Farm" signs. With the Red Barn as the center focal point, the Right To Farm signs are unique to Holden, as well as eye catching. Residents can see the signs at any of the ten major roadways coming into town.

As part of the its mission statement to help preserve open space, the Agricultural Commission is currently in the final stages of having its Guidelines on Right of First Refusal for Chapter Lands adopted as policy by the Board of Selectmen. The guidelines' main objective is to utilize the state-allowed 120 day window for taking action toward exercising the right of first refusal option. This gives an outside non-profit or governmental agency time to perform due diligence and possibly save a property from being developed.

The Commission has also created a Facebook page so people can better follow the agricultural news, events and happenings within Holden. The Commission still sends out its periodical newsletter. Residents can view the latest edition at www.holdenma.gov.

For the coming year, the Commission will be working on the farm-to-farmer movement where landowners are introduced to beginning farmers. Land is leased out and new farmers can get a fresh start into the industry. The Commission is bringing in experts on this subject to assist in creating a connection within town.

The Commission hosted a garden drawing last fall and the winner and her garden will be documented throughout 2015. The Commission will assist the winner during the planting and maintenance phases, as well as constructing the garden with help from volunteers.

Look for the Agricultural Commission at local farm events, such as the Red Barn. The Commission is always looking for locally produced food or agricultural products to sell at its booth to raise money to be used to support local farm efforts.

To contact us, please e-mail chair Denise Cummings at northwoodsfarm@live.com or call her at (508) 328-5837.

COMMITTEE REPORTS WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

Colleen Abrams – Chairman
David Fitzpatrick - Treasurer
Michael Peckar - Secretary
Gordon Elliot
Christy Barnes
Jeffrey Keay
Stephen Chanis

Wachusett Greenways thanks each member and each of its partners: the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Wachusett towns, local foundations, and businesses. Together they have built and continue to maintain nearly two-thirds of the central 30 mile section of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT), including ten bridges and two tunnels. The MCRT is a treasured resource for non-motorized, recreational use. Greenways also maintains the 4-mile White Oak Trail in Holden, which it completed in 2002.

Increased Support

In 2014, membership grew 16 percent to a record 864 members, including 100 new members - a 70 percent increase. 496 donors contributed to Wachusett Greenways' MCRT Construction Fund. Since 1995, 2,756 generous donors and members have supported Greenways. This year nearly 200 volunteers of all ages helped carry out Greenways' mission.

State Trail Award

Wachusett Greenways was honored to receive the 2014 Massachusetts Trail Award in recognition of 20 years of teamwork to connect the heart of the Commonwealth with trails and greenways. The Greenways Board of Directors and volunteers attended the annual conference led by Paul Jahnige and Amanda Lewis of the Massachusetts Trails and Greenways and the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB). Greenways continues to mentor and encourage other trail groups.



Mass Central Rail Trail Construction Continues

In 2014, Wachusett Greenways continued connecting the Mass Central Rail Trail with support from the DCR, local foundations and many individual donors. Wachusett Greenways completed the stone dust 'paving' of the MCRT from Coldbrook Road, Oakham west to the Route 122 Mass Highway rest stop in Barre.

Preparation for completion of the MCRT connection along the Route

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

140/Beaman Street causeway in West Boylston is underway. Design and engineering grants from the DCR Recreational Trails Program and Partnership Matching Program have been awarded to Wachusett Greenways, which is providing the match for these grants.

Teaming Up for Trail Maintenance and Upgrades

Wachusett Greenways trail patrollers and trail clearing volunteers continued to maintain the MCRT. The Wachusett towns and the DCR also carried out trail maintenance including assisting with mowing rail trail shoulders and plowing parking

lots. On the DCR's statewide partnership work day, Greenways volunteers and DCR field crews worked together to improve the parking area and MCRT at Manning Street, Holden.

The DCR expanded the parking at the MCRT entrance at River Street, Holden. Wachusett Greenways added a portable toilet at the Thomas Street, West Boylston entrance to the MCRT.



Community Volunteers and Outreach

Greenways held several hospitality days and trail counts on the rail trail and welcomed visitors at Holden Days. The most common comments are: "Keep up the great work! Thank you! This trail is a special place."

Youth teams are enthusiastic, perennial volunteers. Bancroft middle-school and 5th grade students returned for their annual series of volunteer days. Worcester Polytechnic Institute

students from the Alpha Phi Omega coed service fraternity served for several trail days including at the Springdale Mill celebration. Rutland Girl Scouts and St. John's High School students also volunteered.

Welcome Center

Progress on the Welcome Center at 21 Miles Road in Rutland continued as volunteers completed more interior improvements. The accessible ramp and connecting Mass Central Rail Trail is under design. Doug Hagman, landscaper, donated mowing and leaf removal. Wachusett Greenways misses neighbor and volunteer, Roland Veaudry, who moved from Miles Road to New Hampshire. Wachusett Greenways is grateful for neighbors Seth Stidsen and Dave Camarra who continue to help out with plowing and more.

COMMITTEE REPORTS WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

Outdoor Events and Guide



Wachusett Greenways welcomes volunteers, members and supporters. Wachusett Greenways offers free outdoor events year round. The Wachusett Greenways guide and map for the regions' trails and greenways, and sectional maps of the Mass Central Rail Trail are available at www.wachusettgreenways.org or Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden 01520.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WACHUSETT EARTHDAY

The Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center, located at 131 Raymond Huntington Highway in West Boylston, is a partnership of seven Wachusett towns (Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston), the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and the volunteer non-profit Wachusett Earthday, Incorporated.

Wachusett Earthday, a volunteer non-profit group, operates the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center year-round, 5-7 p.m., Monday; 9-11 a.m., Tuesday; 2:30-4:30 p.m., Wednesday; 8-11 a.m., the third Saturday of each to collect bulk, recycling and reuse items. Call (978) 464-2854 and visit www.wachusettearthday.org or town websites for updates.

Wachusett Earthday held 147 collections during 2014, nearly a 50 percent increase from 2013. In 2014, the number of recycle center visits by residents from the seven town region increased by 60 percent to 15,495.

Four special collections of household hazardous products (with a disposal fee) were held on the third Saturday of April, June, September and November. Three free document shredding days were held at the Recycle Center on the third Saturdays of March, May and October.

The 6,000 square foot Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center recycle building provides an opportunity for large quantities of household goods and furnishings, fabric arts, school supplies, sporting goods, cards and gift items and holiday items to be reused.

More than 7,700 gallons of household hazardous products were safely removed from the watershed. Collected items totaled 64 tons of appliances and metals; 900 tires; 393 propane cylinders; 54 fire extinguishers; 90 tons of cardboard, paper, plastic and mixed recycling; 266 tons of project debris and furniture; one ton of fluorescents; more than one ton of alkaline batteries; thousands of electronics including computer monitors and TVs; thousands of rechargeable batteries and several tons of clothing. More than 10,000 returnable bottles and cans were collected, also.

Nearly 70 dedicated volunteers serve at the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center. In addition, regional high school student volunteers, Bancroft School students, St. John High School students and Scout groups volunteer and enjoy educational

COMMITTEE REPORTS WACHUSETT EARTHDAY



tours. Earthday volunteers offered free crafts and reuse and recycling information at Wachusett town celebrations. Two recycle craft fairs were held.

Facility improvement projects included paving the entry drive and parking areas, outdoor lighting, entry signage and repairing storage trailer roofs. Nick D 'Aquila completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing a shelter for check-in volunteers.

Four Household Hazardous Products collections are planned from 8-12 p.m. on June 20, September 19 and November 21, 2015. Free document shredding will be held on October 17 from 8-11 a.m. The Center will

be closed on May 25, September 7 and November 25.

The Wachusett Regional Recycle Town Representative Team includes designated representatives of the seven Wachusett towns, the DCR and Wachusett Earthday, Incorporated. The team meets periodically to review operations. The Board of Directors of Wachusett Earthday, Incorporated, a volunteer non-profit group, meets monthly to manage operations.

The towns of Boylston, Holden, Princeton and Rutland collect sharps. The towns of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, West Boylston and Rutland collect pharmaceuticals.

2014 Members of the Wachusett Regional Recycle Center Town Representative Team

Boylston—Martin McNamara

Rutland—Sheila Dibb

Holden—Dennis Lipka

Sterling—William Tuttle

Paxton—Carol Riches

West Boylston—Leon Gaumond, Christopher Rucho

Princeton—Arthur Allen

Wachusett Earthday—Colleen Abrams

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation—John Scannell

2014 Directors of Wachusett Earthday

Colleen Abrams, Norma Chanis, George Dvorak, Andre Gaudet, Eric Johansen, C. Mary McLoughlin, Anna Perkins, Patt Popple, Helen Townsend and Robert Troy.

New directors beginning in 2014: Sandra Hakkarainen, Tim Harrington, Lydia Shewchuk

Retiring during 2014: David Ryan, Robert Paulson, Arthur Allen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS RECREATION COMMITTEE

Lisa Post - Chair
Erin O'Neil Bradbury - Co-Chair
Melissa Staiti
Robin Grady
Nancy Owens

The Holden Recreation Committee is an advisory board to Denise Morano, the Recreation Director. We meet monthly to discuss department procedures and program offerings. Although the Committee has no decision-making authority, it can and does make suggestions and recommendations to the Recreation Director.

The Committee also sponsors an annual event on the first Saturday in December called "Santa's Arrival." This event takes place at Town Hall and the First Congregational Church and is open to all town residents. The Committee provides hot chocolate and popcorn and a nice place to warm up and Santa arrives on a fire truck.

In 2014, a cross-country ski instruction program for children and adults, and a wrestling program for children ages five through fourteen, were introduced. The Recreation Department also moved into its new office (the old police station which was completely renovated into office space and exercise rooms) located at 1420 Main Street. The joint effort between the Recreation Department, Recreation Committee and town residents will continue to strengthen the relationships between the groups.

Anyone interested in joining the Holden Recreation Committee can obtain information by contacting the Town Manager's office or by filling out the "Do Something Questionnaire" available at www.holdenma.gov.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HELP AT HOME COMMITTEE

Karen Halley - Chairman
Brian Bullock
Faye Ellis
Marty Holman
Susie Marsh
Jim Robinson
Joe Sullivan

From the Council on Aging:

Total applications received: 31 (either paperwork wasn't returned or other solutions were found)

Families helped: 22

HMLD: 9 (\$5,360.39) including 2 for electric heat (\$2,290)

Heat (oil): 13 (\$7,372.20)

Other: 1 (\$400)

Total spent: \$13,132.59

Average \$/family: \$596.93

For the 2014 calendar year, Help at HOME raised \$17,989.65. These funds were raised primarily through envelopes that were distributed with Holden Municipal Light Department bills in November. This has been the method of fundraising since the beginning of Help at HOME in 2008. Donors include individuals, organizations, schools, churches, and local businesses. Of the funds collected, \$13,132.59 has been dispersed to 22 households. The monies went to pay utilities such as gas, oil, and electric bills, as well as rent and housing. In addition to the assistance listed above, families were also provided with information about other resources in the community. This information includes the Wachusett Food Pantry, the SNAP program (food stamps), housing, on-line services, and fuel assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDEN COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Jay Brunetta – HCTV Public Access Director
Evan Schakenbach – Production Assistant
Larry Popple – Chairman
Patricia Popple
Virginia Ursin
Hank Ouellette
Louis Tilson
Christopher Hugo



In 2014 a significant change happened for Holden Community Television (HCTV): our channels switched to channels 191, 192 and 194. Microphones were upgraded at Memorial Hall. The new wireless gooseneck microphones were installed for the Holden Board of Selectmen meetings, giving the meetings a more enhanced and clear sound. A television studio set was built the HCTV studio. For the first time, HCTV has a television set for broadcasting news, talk shows, and interviews. Also at the studio, staff made upgrades to the Broadcast Pix video switcher, which replaced older software with more current switching software.

HCTV continues to produce a wide variety of programs. Hometown Holden continued its second season, with Town Manager Jacquelyn Kelly as host. The show highlights the various departments of the Town of Holden. Past episodes have included a tour of the Holden Department of Public Works, Water Department, and the Public Safety Building with a focus on the Holden Police Department and Holden Fire Department. HCTV continues to broadcast all Holden Selectmen meetings, Wachusett Regional School District Committee meetings and other town events, such as the Holden Memorial Day Parade, Holden Days, Wachusett Flag Football Super Bowl, lectures and seminars taped at the Holden Senior Center, the Mountview Middle School graduation, and the seasonal musicals at the Wachusett Regional High School. Holden Happenings was a new



**COMMITTEE REPORTS
CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HOLDEN COMMUNITY TELEVISION**

show produced by Holden resident Stephanie Adams, which featured news and highlights at the Gale Free Library.

Holden Community Television is thankful to its committed volunteers who have contributed to the continued success of its public access facility. A majority of the locally produced, original programs can be viewed at www.HCTV11.com. Certified producers and 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, please contact HCTV at (508) 829-6185.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Paul Challenger – Chairman
David White – Vice-Chairman
Erik Githmark
Jacquelyn Kelly
Christopher Lucchesi
Darryll McCall
Robert McCarthy
Margaret Watson



2014 was a very exciting year for the Mountview Middle School building project as ground was broken and construction got underway after years of planning.

In November 2013, the Mountview School Building Committee (MSBC) had set criteria for general contractors and sub-contractors who wished to bid on the project. Companies that wanted to submit bids had to submit standard applications and qualifications. The MSBC, owner's project manager, architects and town counsel reviewed these qualifications, checked references and reviewed records at the Office of the Inspector General to determine who would be qualified to bid on the project.

Interested pre-qualified sub-contractors submitted their bids on February 26, 2014. Fifteen subcontractors were awarded contracts as low bidders at an average of 11.83 percent total below budget, a very good omen for the project's budget.

The deadline for the submission of general contractor bids was April 24, 2014. Of the seven companies that had been qualified to bid, four submitted bids. The contract was awarded to CTA Construction of Waltham, Mass., whose bid of \$35.2 million was \$7.9 million under the prior cost estimates. CTA has extensive experience building public school in Massachusetts, including projects the size of the new Mountview Middle School. CTA began work on the site immediately following the end of the school year.

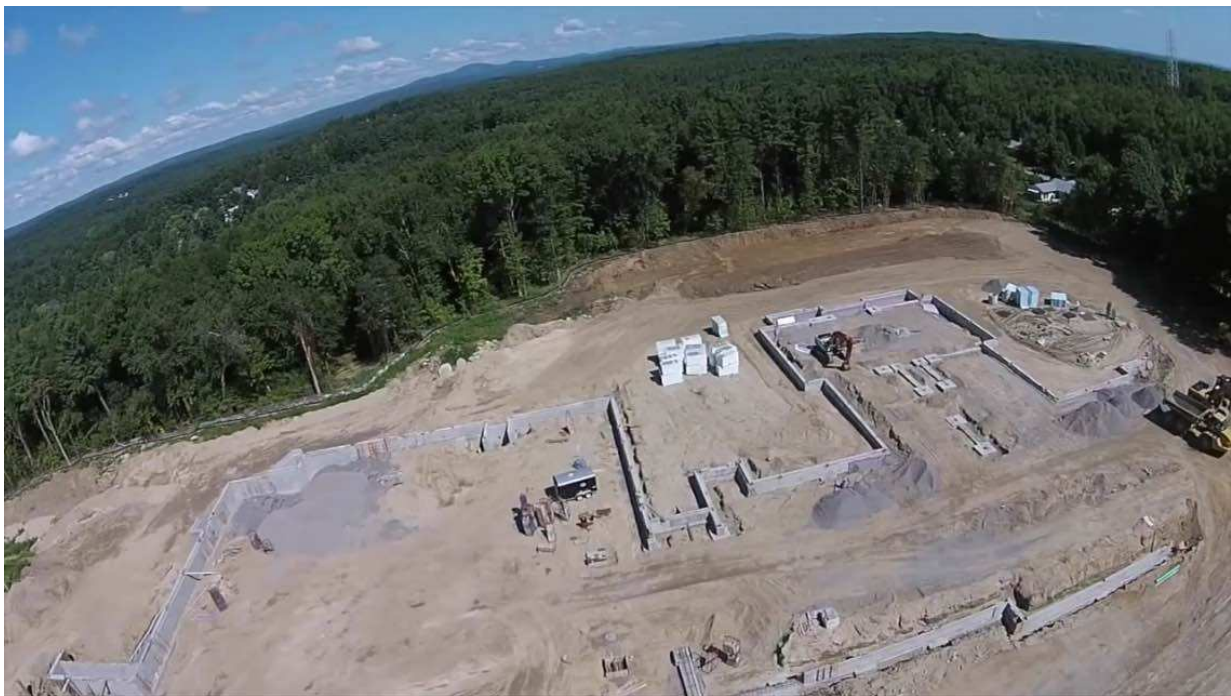
During Phase I of construction, site work began, including the construction of the driveway for the new school that will be used for heavy construction vehicles during the project. The footings for the building were dug, water run-off management plans were implemented and a gate was put in off Mountview

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Drive for non-construction vehicles. The site plan includes a fence to prevent access to the site, and to separate the work site from the existing building during construction. A trailer for use as the Owner's Project Manager's office was brought on-site to facilitate careful supervision of the work.

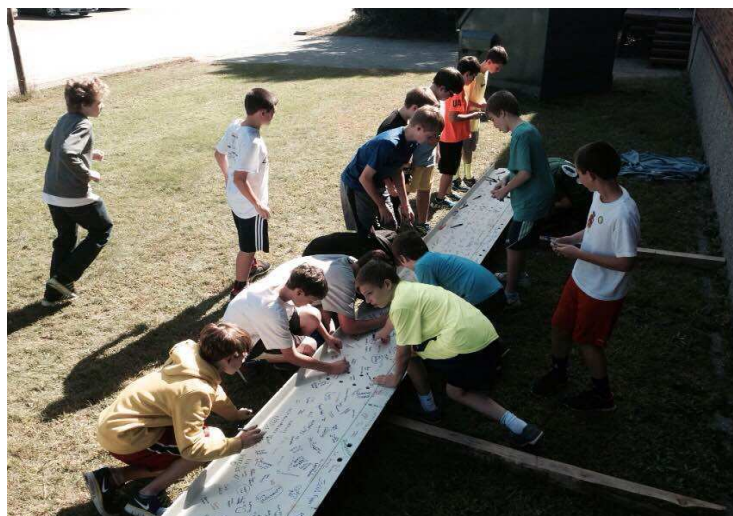
The Town brought gas lines along Shrewsbury Street from the Holden Municipal Light Department to the school site. Using natural gas in the new building is projected to provide the Wachusett Regional School District with significant energy savings for many years.



COMMITTEE REPORTS MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE



Phase II will see the construction of the new building. By September, approximately 90 percent of the foundation had been completed, with the steel beams arriving in October. By the beginning of November, the skeleton of the building was in place and work commenced on pouring the floors and installing the infrastructure of the building. By year-end, the project was approximately 22 percent completed.



Beam Signing

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE



The Committee is committed to communicating with the Town and its officials so that everyone knows the status of the biggest building project the Town has ever undertaken. The chair and vice-chair met with the Board of Selectmen and the Wachusett Regional School District Committee during the year, and contributed material to the local newspapers detailing plans for the structure and describing the progress of the work to date. The Committee has also maintained an open communications channel with neighbors and abutters to keep them apprised of developments in the project, and to hear their concerns.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site in September. The ceremony was open to the public and was remarkably well attended. Remarks were given by committee members, state legislators, town officials, representatives from the Massachusetts School Building Authority and the architects, Lamoureux Pagano & Associates. School children from the Holden elementary schools and Mountview Middle School participated in the ground-breaking ceremony, representing the

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

students who will be in the first class to attend the new school and the last to graduate from the old one.

The project's completion is scheduled for the spring of 2016, with classes being held for the first time after spring break in May 2016. Demolition of the existing structure will begin immediately after the transition to the new school, to make way for the new parking lots and fields.

The Committee is working diligently to complete the project on time and within the funds appropriated for the project, while ensuring that it delivers the highest quality project possible. Where the Committee sees opportunities to improve the project at a reasonable cost, it is approving those expenditures. An example of this is the decision to use pre-grown sod for the fields instead of sowing seeds and waiting two growing seasons to be able to use the fields. All construction projects encounter unforeseen problems, circumstances and unexpected events, and this project will be no different.

The Committee is committed to working closely with the Owner's Project Manager, architect and contractor to handle issues as efficiently as possible to keep the project on track for an on-time school opening.



The Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to receive public comment, reports from the architects and the Owner's Project Manager, and to address issues as they arise. All meetings are public and posted and the Committee welcomes community participation and insight.

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 (1,2,3)

- ☐ 250TH Permanent Gift Committee a/k/a The Bandstand Committee
- ☐ 275TH Celebration Committee
- ☐ Agricultural Commission
- ☐ Board of Health
- ☐ Cable Advisory Committee
- ☐ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- ☐ Conservation Commission
- ☐ Council on Aging/Senior Citizens Committee
- ☐ Economic Development Commission
- ☐ Help at H.O.M.E. Committee
- ☐ Historic District Commission
- ☐ Historical Commission
- ☐ Holden Cultural Council
- ☐ Infrastructure Investment Fund Board
- ☐ Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
- ☐ Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board
- ☐ Planning Board
- ☐ Recreation Committee
- ☐ Transportation/Circulation
- ☐ Veterans Advisory Committee
- ☐ Water/Sewer Advisory Board
- ☐ Winter Festival Committee
- ☐ 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 - 2014

Population as of January 1, 2014 - 18,455

Marriage Intentions Filed	73
Marriages Recorded	72
Births Recorded	149
Deaths Recorded	169
Certified Copies of Vital Statistics Issued	941
Flammable Storage Renewals	21
Dog Licenses Issued	2836
Kennel Licenses Issued	3
Burial Permits Issued	76
Parking Tickets Processed	132
Business Certificates	66
Raffle Permits Issued	2
Drainlayer Licenses Processed	38
Selectmen Licenses Processed	112
Zoning Board of Appeals Decisions Received	14
Planning Board Filings Received	30
Conservation Commission Applications Received	17
Historic District Commission Applications Received	4

NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS (as of December 31, 2014)

Democratic Party	2688
Republican Party	2028
Green Rainbow	11
United Independent Party	2
Unenrolled	7770
Political Designations	51
Total Registered Voters	12,550

TOWN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

www.holdenma.gov

Town of Holden Main Number (508) 210-5500

Town of Holden Emergency Information Recording (508) 210-5555

Police/Fire/Medical Emergency "911"

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) 210-5540
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) 210-5540