

TOWN OF BOYLSTON

Annual Report 2023



TOWN OF BOYLSTON
221 MAIN STREET
BOYLSTON, MA 01505



WWW.BOYLSTON-MA.GOV
(508) 869 - 0143



ON THE COVER:

The Lions football team captured the Division 8 state title in November 2023, with a 41-7 win over Carver at Gillette Stadium.

The win capped off an undefeated season for the Lions, who finished with a 13-0 record.

Photo credit: Alex Belisle



ANNUAL TOWN REPORT
of the
TOWN OF BOYLSTON
MASSACHUSETTS



Published Spring 2024

Financial Data for Fiscal Year Ended
June 30th, 2023

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TOWN OF BOYLSTON

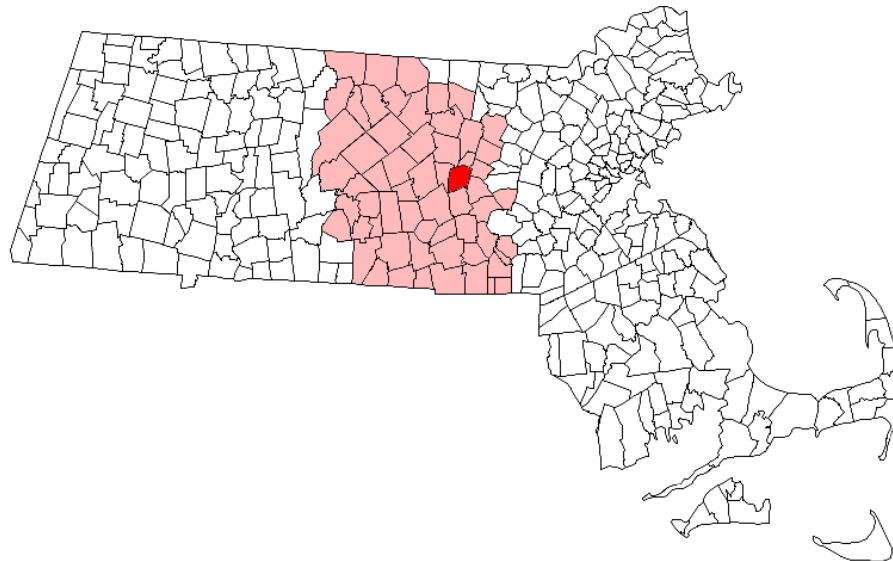
MASSACHUSETTS

Coordinates: 42° 23' 30"N 71° 42' 15" W
County: Worcester **State:** Massachusetts
Country: United States
Settled: 1705 **Incorporated:** 1786

Time Zone: Eastern
Zip Code: 01505
Area Codes: 508 / 774

Elevation: 443 ft
Population: 5,139
Density: 250/sq mi

Area:
Total: 19.7 sq. mi
• **Land:** 16.0 sq. mi
• **Water:** 3.6 sq. mi



BOYLSTON TOWN GOVERNMENT

Type: Open Town Meeting
Town Administrator: April Steward

County-Level State Agency Heads

Clerk of Courts: Dennis P. McManus (D)
District Attorney: Joe Early Jr. (D)
Register of Deeds: Katie Toomey (D)
Register of Probate: Stephanie Fattman (R)
County Sheriff: Lew Evangelidis (R)

State Government

State Representative(s): Megan Kilcoyne (D)
State Senator(s): Robyn K. Kennedy (D)
Governor's Councilor(s): Paul M. DePalo (D)

Federal Government

U.S. Representative(s): James P. McGovern (D-2nd District)
U.S. Senators: Elizabeth Warren (D), Ed Markey (D)

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Boylston's 2023 Annual Town Report is Dedicated to:

Mary T. Seed – August 19th, 2023



Mary T. (Flynn) Seed, passed away on August 19, 2023 with her children gathered at her bedside. Her husband of 30 years, Richard C. Seed, passed away in 1983.

Mary was born in Worcester, daughter of the late John J. and Mary A. (McInerney) Flynn. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy, Worcester and Worcester State Teachers College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. Mary was a First Grade Teacher for many years, retiring from the Worcester Public School System in 1994.

Family, faith and friendships were the cornerstones of Mary's life, hosting large family gatherings at her home, attending activities for her children and grandchildren and visits with her great-grandchildren. Mary was active in the church as an organist, lector and Ecumenical Vacation Bible School leader.

Mary was an educator at heart, a life-long learner and reader and had a beautiful singing voice. She loved antiquing with her husband and camping with her young family at Bourne Scenic Park on Cape Cod. Mary was a longtime board member for the Council on Aging, an election worker in Boylston and served as a class agent for Worcester State College. She enjoyed golfing, bowling, and gardening. Mary cherished the many trips with her daughter, and primary caregiver, Betty. Mary will be missed dearly by those who knew and loved her.

Betty Lou Wagner – November 27th, 2023



Betty Lou (Ostberg) Wagner, 90, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Monday, November 27, 2023. She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Harry and Sally (Grochowski) Ostberg and grew up in Holden.

Betty Lou graduated from Holden High School with the class of 1950. She married the love of her life, the late Ralph O Wagner, Jr. and settled in Boylston, where they raised their sons and ran their family business, Wagner Bros Inc. Betty Lou's passions in life included watching Red Sox games, attending rock concerts and above all, spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also loved animals, especially cows and enjoyed the company of her many cats over the years. Though gone from our sight, Betty Lou remains forever in our hearts, a guiding light of love and inspiration.

In Memoriam

**Reflecting on the past, honoring our community's journey,
and embracing the legacy that binds us together.**

Joseph Leo Hart, Jr.	January 9 th	Paul Thomas Pechonis	May 31 st
Nandu J. Marketkar	January 11 th	Robert G. Dupuis	June 28 th
David F. Baker	January 13 th	Paul Dempsey	July 7 th
Willard G. Rice, Jr.	January 19 th	Shirley A. Ware	July 11 th
Christy Melissa Hays	January 28 th	Paul D. Wagner, Sr.	August 12 th
Durkin, John Edward	February 2 nd	Donna Marie Delisle	August 13 th
Green, Michael R	February 10 th	Mary T. Seed	August 19 th
France Murphy	February 25 th	William B. Mann Jr.	August 19 th
Leo M. Tivnan	March 6 th	Aram Arvanigian	August 25 th
Linda Nell Jones	March 11 th	Christine J. Wilson	August 29 th
Barbara A. Gardner	March 12 th	Kathleen T. McCarthy	August 31 st
Lorraine M. Nosek	March 17 th	James M. Smith	October 1 st
Louis J.H. Burkhardt, Jr.	March 19 th	Sandra Florence Lupien	October 6 th
Accamma Issac	March 20 th	Betty Lou Wagner	November 27 th
Mark Adams	April 11 th	James R. Hughes	December 2 nd
Richard P. Cote Sr.	May 13 th	Donald Blom, Jr.	December 3 rd
Nancy A. Johnson	May 19 th	Charles T. Jasiak, Jr.	December 5 th
		William Birney Mann, III	December 26 th

Volunteer to Serve

The Board of Selectmen seeks Boylston residents to serve in appointed positions on various boards, commissions, and committees. A file of names submitted will be established and made available to all Town departments for filling future vacancies.

Complete the form, indicate your areas of interest, and return with letter of interest, resume and/or list of qualifications to:

Boylston Board of Selectmen
Attn: Volunteer to Serve
Boylston Town Hall
221 Main Street
Boylston, MA 01505

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Background: _____

Email: _____

- I am a first-time volunteer requesting appointment to: (check all that apply)
- I currently serve as a volunteer and:
 - I would like to be re-appointed to serve on the following: (check all that apply)
 - I **do not** wish to be reappointed to: (check all that apply)
- ADA Committee
- Affordable Housing
- Agricultural Commission
- Appeals Board (ZBA)
- Board of Registrars
- Business Marketing Committee
- Cable Advisory Committee
- Community Preservation Act Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Council on Aging
- Cultural Council
- Earth Removal Board
- Election Worker
- Finance Committee
- Historic District Commission
- Historical Commission
- Housing Production Plan Committee
- Master Plan Implementation Committee
- Memorial Day Committee
- Waste and Recycling Committee
- Other: _____

Elected Town Officials

Expiration of Appointment – June 30th
(Unless otherwise noted)

Moderator

Kimberly Rozak 2025

Board of Selectmen

Jamie Underwood (Chair) 2024

Matt Mecum 2025

Seth Ridinger 2026

Town Clerk

Dawn Porter 2026

Board of Assessors

Van Baker 2024

Tom Martiska 2025

Rebecca Dono Healy 2026

Board of Health

Robert Thibeault (Chair) 2024

Sarah Barrette 2025

John Wentzell 2026

Cemetery Commissioners

Deborah Fuller (Interim) 2024

Don Parker 2025

Barbara Seed 2026

Municipal Light Board

John McQuade 2024

Shelia Miller 2025

Steve Mero 2026

Planning Board

Corinna Javier 2024

Kim M. Ames 2025

Mark Johnson (Chair) 2026

Homaira Naseem 2027

Peter Carso 2028

Richard Baker, Associate Member

Library Trustees

Maria Zapp 2024

Prashant Bhablia 2024

Beth Wilson 2025

Azucena Filsinger 2025

Arlene Murphy 2026

Susan Therriault 2026

Parks and Recreation

Alison LeBlanc 2024

Steven Nason 2024

Eric Hoffses (Chair) 2025

Arielle Strzelewicz 2026

Claudine Underwood 2026

Boylston School Committee

Meagan Grill 2024

Lori-Anne Hart 2026

Jessica Moore Deglialberti 2026

Appointed Town Officials

Expiration of Appointment – June 30th
(Unless otherwise noted)

Legislative Liaison April Steward	2024	Town Counsel Stephen Madaus	2024
Civil Defense Director Tree Warden Gypsy Brown-Tail Moth Inspector Right to Know Coordinator Steve Mero	2024	Treasurer / Tax Collector Cheri Cox	2024
Parking Clerk: Dawn Porter	2024	Assistant Treasurer / Tax Collector Rosemary Buckley	2024
Council on Aging Coordinator Outreach Worker Kathy Lohnes	2024	Highway Superintendent Steve Mero	2024
Fence Viewer and Surveyor of Hoops and Staves VACANCY	2024	Building Inspector Tony Zahariadis	2024
Town Accountant Ninotchka Rogers	2024	Alternate Building Inspector Jim Salmon	2024
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Alison Kennedy	2024	Robert Lanciani	2024
Land Use and Inspectional Services Director/Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila	2024	Joseph Mikielian	2024
Central MA Regional Planning Commission and Transportation Improvement Richard Baker, PB Rep.	2024	Gas / Plumbing Inspector Eric Johnson	2024
Howard Drobner	2024	Brian Gaucher (Alternate)	2024
		Jeremiah Johnson (Assistant)	2024
		Wiring Inspector John McQuade	2024
		John Healy (Assistant)	2024
		Michael O'Sullivan	2024
		Sanitation Agent Dennis Costello	2024
		Tax Title Custodian April Steward	2024

Boards and Committees

Expiration of Appointment – June 30th
(Unless otherwise noted)

ADA Committee

Kathy Lohnes	2024
Irene Symonds	2024
Ed McDonald	2024
VACANCY	2024
VACANCY	2024

Affordable Housing Committee

Peter Caruso, Planning Board	2024
Janet Lombardi, Appeals Board	2024
Scott Rhatigan, At Large	2024
Beth Wilson, At Large	2024
Mark Anttila, At Large	2024

Affordable Housing Trust

Matt Mecum	2024
Jamie Underwood	2024
Seth Ridinger	2024
Eric Brose	2024
Stephanie Miczek	2024

Agricultural Commission

Georgiana Stowe	2024
VACANCY	2025
Tricia May	2026

Appeals Board

Arlene Murphy	2024
Janet Lombardi	2025
Bradford Wyatt	2025
Paul Dell'Aquila, Asso. Mem.	2026
Robert Cotter	2026
VACANCY, Asso. Member	2026
William Filsinger	2027

Board of Registrars

Bonnie Johnson (Chair)	2024
Cindy Sears	2025
Dawn Porter (Clerk)	2026
Fran Brissette	2026

Business Marketing Committee

Town Administrator, Ex Officio	2024
VACANCY	2024
VACANCY	2024
VACANCY	2024
VACANCY	2024

Cable Advisory Committee

Thomas Martiska	2024
John Stoffel	2024
VACANCY	2024

Community Preservation Committee

Mark Anttila, AHC	2024
Ron Aspero, Con Com.	2024
Judith Haynes, Historical Com.	2024
Eric Hoffses, P&R	2024
Corrina Javier, Planning Board	2024
Tricia May, At Large	2024
Amanda Baer, At Large	2024
Michael Dubrule, At Large	2025
Elaine Jones, At Large	2025

Conservation Commission

Louis Burkhardt	2024
Ron Aspero	2024
VACANCY	2024
Jeffrey Walsh	2025
VACANCY	2025
Joe McGrath	2026
Mark Coakley	2026
Lucas Rose	2026

Council on Aging

Dennis Goguen	2024
Warren Leach	2024
Eileen Melican	2024
Lydia Cerce	2024
Ed MacDonald	2024
Deborah Goodrich	2024
Karen Carter	2024
Merri Gerber	2024

Boards and Committees

Expiration of Appointment – June 30th
(Unless otherwise noted)

Cultural Council

Linda Oroszko	2024
Kathy Evans	2024
Maya Nanjundawamy	2024
Kristen Socha	2025
Andrea MacRitchie	2026
Doug Urquhart	2026
Miyoshi Holden	2026

Earth Removal Board

Mark Coakley, Con Com.	2024
Janet Lombardi, Appeals Board	2024
Jamie Underwood, BOS	2024
John Wentzell, BOH	2024
Kim Ames, Planning Board	2024

Feasibility Study Committee

John Annunziata, Police Chief	2024
Bob Bourassa, Facilities Tech	2024
Howard Drobner, Boylston Resident	2024
Joe Flanagan, Fire Chief	2024
Dennis Goguen, COA Rep.	2024
Kathy Lohnes, COA Coordinator	2024
Matt Mecum, BoS Representative	2024
Joan Deal, At Large Member	2024
Mark Fuller, At Large Member	2024

Finance Committee

Eric Brose	2024
Greg Cusimano	2024
David Butler	2025
Stephanie Miczek	2025
Karen McGahie	2026
Howard Drobner	2026

Historic District Commission

Catherine Richard	2024
John Ciarlante	2024
David Cole	2025
Elizabeth Parsley	2025
Michael Alfego	2026
Jessica Bourque	2026
Sue Therriault	2026

Historical Commission

Judith Haynes (Secretary)	2024
Patricia Bartram	2024
Bruce Filgate (Chair)	2025
Nancy Filgate (Treasurer)	2025
David Bottom	2026
Judith Bottom	2026

Homeland Security

Dennis Costello, BOH	2024
Steve Mero, DPW	2024
John Annunziata, PD	2024
Joseph Flanagan, FD	2024
April Steward, TA	2024

Insurance Advisory Committee

John Annunziata, PD	2024
Pamela Rudge, Dispatch	2024
Joseph Flanagan, FD	2024
Steve Mero, DPW	2024
Alison Kennedy, Town Hall	2024
Mike Lucia, Light Dept	2024
Vacancy, Retirees	2024
HR Administrator	2024
Erica Hout Library	2024
April Steward, TA	2024
Cheri Cox, Treasurer	2024

Boards and Committees

Expiration of Appointment – June 30th
(Unless otherwise noted)

Master Plan Implementation Committee

Mark Johnson, Planning Board	2024
Claudine Underwood, P&R	2024
Jeffrey Walsh, Conservation Com.	2024
Nancy Filgate, Historical Com.	2024
Jessica DegliAlberti, School Com.	2024
Dennis Goguen, Council on Aging	2024
Stephanie Miczek, Finance Com.	2024

Master Plan Steering Committee

Richard Baker (Chair), PB	2024
Matt Mecum (Vice Chair), BoS	2024
Mark Anttila (Secretary), At Large	2024
Dennis Goguen, Council on Aging	2024
Chris Miczek, At Large	2024
Paul Dell'Aquila, Town Planner	2024
Claudine Underwood, Parks and Rec	2024
Jeffrey Walsh, Conservation Com.	2024
Bill Filsinger, ZBA	2024
Lori Hart, BBRSD	2024
Van Baker (non-voting), Assessors	2024
Nancy Filgate, Historical Com.	2024

Memorial Day Committee

Betty Larkin	2024
Debra Larkin	2024
Scott Larkin	2024
Charles Gray	2024
VACANCY	2024

Senior Tax Rebate Committee

Alison Kennedy	2024
April Steward, TA, Ex Officio	2024
Dennis Goguen, COA Rep.	2024
Cheri Cox, Treasurer, Ex Officio	2024
Dawn Porter	2024
Jack Valleli, Assessors Clerk	2024

Storm Water Committee

Steve Mero, DPW	2024
Joe McGrath	2024
Chip Burkhardt, III	2024
April Steward, TA, Ex Officio	2024

Town House Committee

Steve Mero	2024
Robert Bourassa	2024
Alison Kennedy	2024
April Steward, TA, Ex Officio	2024

Town Report Committee

Alison Kennedy	2024
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Fire Department Roster

Fire Chief and Forest Warden

Joseph Flanagan*

Deputy Chief

Matthew Ronn

Captain

Don MacKenzie*

Lieutenants

Roger Young

Scott McCubrey

Jason Bradford*

Michael Buddenhagen

Paul Osterberg

Daniel Buddenhagen*

Michael O'Sullivan*

Chaplain

Deacon Dick Martino

Firefighters / Emergency Medical Technicians

Laura Carlson	EMT	Megan O'Sullivan	EMT
Jayden Chiasson	EMT	John Phipps	EMT
Nicole Chiasson	Firefighter/EMT	Alan Portis	Firefighter/EMT
Tim Ciampaglia	Firefighter/FR	Elise Probst	EMT
Ryan Colleton	Firefighter/FR	Aivah Puri	EMT
Kevin Colomey	Firefighter/EMT	Mason Ronn	Firefighter/FR
Tabitha Conway	Firefighter/EMT	Ryan Schloerb*	Firefighter/EMT
Jeff Dempsey-Holmes	Firefighter/FR	April Steward	EMT
Guinevere Ferreira	EMT	Keegan Watson	Firefighter
Corey Fisher	Firefighter/EMT	Bill Weir*	Firefighter/EMT
Chuck Hill	Firefighter/FR	Matt Welch	Firefighter/FR
Joe Murray	EMT	Kelly Wilhide	EMT
Robert O'Connell	Firefighter/EMT	Christian Vogt	Firefighter/EMT

* Full Time Employee

Police Department Roster

Chief of Police

John Annunziata

Executive Assistant

Christine Bissonnette

Sergeants

Robert Thomas, Jr.

Cody Thomasian

Mark Shepard

Detectives

Matthew Ryel

Patrolman

Robert Barbato

Samuel Rivera

Jared Piche

Kevin Monaghan

Kenneth Johnson

David McNutt

Justin Ryel

Ryan Kelly

Dispatchers

Pamela Rudge

Jennefer Schiavone

Sheila Crosbie

Lynn Purcell

Bonnie White

Kevin Colomey

Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectman is pleased to present the residents of Boylston with the Annual Report for calendar year 2023. The Board would first like to state how very proud we are of our high school football team for winning the state championship for the second year in a row. It was a wonderful experience to see the entire community come together in support of our team at Gillette Stadium.

The Board issued all necessary permits and licenses as required by statute. All State and Federal certificates were filed as required and the necessary personnel appointments were made. All business that came before our Board was handled with the best interests of the Town and its residents in mind. Selectman reviewed and finalized the FY24 Budget and the Warrant articles for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. There was no Special Town Meeting in the fall of 2023.

At our May 2023 Annual Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen presented an Article to town residents to purchase a 30 acre plot of land on School street to be placed into conservation. Residents voted overwhelmingly (over 80%) in favor of this motion to slow development and protect Boylston's open space.

To help pay for this new land, the Selectmen set to work to compile all necessary documentation, and to prepare the application for a Massachusetts LAND grant through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. We are very pleased to announce that the Town of Boylston received the full amount, \$500,000, to help pay for the newly acquired conservation land. This is another example of what we can accomplish when we work together and seek out creative solutions to our often-complex problems.

Furthermore, Boylston, along with Berlin, also received \$335,000 from the Municipal Fiber Grant program. These funds will be used to run fiber between all school buildings, the District Office, and Boylston/Berlin Police and Fire headquarters. This will help to increase/update technology in the schools as well as enhance school security. These funds were also used to complete the final stages of our new first responder communication infrastructure upgrade.

In 2022 the Board began exploring the prospect of constructing a new public safety building in town that would house both the police and fire departments, and possibly a senior center as well. In 2023, finding that the cost for this project far exceeded expectations, the Board decided to take another direction and re-charged the feasibility study committee to explore using the existing Gough House, a historical public building, for a senior center. Several meetings have taken place and the process of creating a senior center for Boylston residents is moving forward.

Finally, with all of the new growth and development in town, and after the departure of our town planner, the Selectmen decided to make the position of Town Planner a full time position and began a search to fill this role. We are pleased to announce that after months of searching, our previous Town Planner rejoined Boylston as a full-time employee.

Board of Selectmen

The Board held 28 regular meetings and 28 executive session meetings in the year 2023 and attendance was recorded as follows:

	<u>Of Regular meetings:</u>	<u>Of Executive meetings:</u>
James Underwood	24/28	25/28
Matt Mecum	26/28	27/28
Seth Ridinger	28/28	28/28

Respectfully submitted,

Seth M. Ridinger
Boylston Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

We deeply value our dedicated team members at Town Hall and remain committed to enhancing our services for the residents of Boylston. Our goal is to consistently deliver outstanding customer service with a warm smile to everyone who visits us. I extend heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to our employees for their tireless efforts and assistance throughout the year.

Once more, the Highway Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Water Department, and Municipal Light Department excelled in their duties, alongside the diligent employees of the Library.

Below are some of the highlights of the year:

Personnel Changes & Accomplishments

During 2023 we had several personnel changes, including:

Justin Ryel and Ryan Kelly joined the Police Department

Paul Dell'Aquila rejoined the Town as the Town Planner after a short sabbatical.

Detective Parker retired from the Police Department after 21 years of service. He will be missed by the community. Thank you, Detective Parker, for your years of dedication and service.

Projects

Hillside Updates – *A new handicapped bathroom is completely installed in the lower level of the Town Hall.*

Road Repairs – *The remaining portion of Central Street from French Drive to Linden Street was paved in 2023.*

Numerous roads in the town still require repair or repaving, and we remain committed to conducting annual paving projects within the limits of available funds.

Economic Development – *Northbridge partners completed construction of a 396,375-square-foot industrial space located at 80 Pine Hill Drive. The space remains vacant while the right tenant is found for the location. Kraft Group also completed construction of a 373,500-square-foot manufacturing facility for Rand-Whitney and opened their doors with a grand-opening visit from Governor Maura Healy and Robert Kraft. In addition, PROCON completed a 300,000 square-foot warehouse on the same site where Unified² is under operation.*

The Local Initiative Project broke ground at 100 Shrewsbury Street. This project will consist of 63 units of rental housing and is slated to open to residents in 2024.

The numerous local boards and commissions merit significant recognition for their extensive meetings and the prolonged hours dedicated to deliberating on behalf of the residents.

Town Administrator

Free Cash, Grants, Credits, and other Reimbursements –

We were again very fortunate to receive Grants and Credits that helped offset expenses in departments. We received approximately \$3,269,824.42 in various Grants, Credits, and Reimbursements.

Free Cash - *As a result of our Department Heads using restraint on spending some new growth, and building department collections for permits, our Free Cash has been certified at \$1,316,223.00.*

MIA Credits - *\$3,621 was received as credits on our Workers Compensation. \$5,290 was received as credits on our Property/Liability Coverage.*

Land Grant - *\$500,000 was received to offset the purchase of 30+/- acres off School Street. This parcel will be put under conservation status for residents to enjoy the walking trails for years to come.*

Misc. – *Cyber Security Grant to support local government efforts to improve overall cybersecurity posture through comprehensive online end-user training, evaluation, and threat simulation.*

Other items of interest

FY23 Financial Audit – Has been completed and we will continue to work with Roselli, Clark, and Assoc. in 2024.

Due to the hard work of our Assessor's office and by the Town Accountant, our FY24 tax rate was certified by the MA DOR in November.

A Feasibility Study Committee has been formed to address the current needs of the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the senior population. A proposed plan for the three departments should be on track to be presented to the town at the spring Annual Town Meeting.

Upcoming Future Issues

- *Expansion of economic development continues along the Route 140 Corridor.*
- *Boylston Elementary school needs a new roof and continued repairs.*
- *Boylston is looking to build a new Senior Center for residents in town to enjoy.*
- *The Fire Department will need a new facility soon.*
- *The Police Department needs to be remodeled and expanded.*

It continues to be a very busy year for all town departments, employees, boards and committees including the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Library Trustees, and the Board of Selectmen. Thomas Edison once said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. It is the hard work." While that may be true, opportunity is not missed by many of the volunteers in Boylston who give their time and efforts to unselfishly serve the Town of Boylston, making the town such a desirable place to live and work.

Town Administrator

Considering the remarkable developments underway in Boylston, the future appears exceedingly promising. I extend my gratitude to the residents for affording me the chance to contribute in my own modest way towards shaping Boylston's present and future trajectory.

April C. Steward

Town Administrator

Town Counsel

It's an honor to serve as Town Counsel for the Town of Boylston.

As Town Counsel I attend the Annual Town Meeting, Special Town Meetings, and meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Upon request or assignment, I also attend meetings of other municipal boards or committees. My firm also serves as Labor Counsel for the Town. My office provides advice and counsel to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, the Building Inspector, Town departments, and board and committee members. My office defends the Town in any claims or complaints filed against it in court and, if authorized by the Board of Selectmen, prosecute claims on behalf of the Town. I prepare and review documents and contracts and review and respond, on behalf of the Town, to all legal matters and claims.

In 2023, this office was involved in the following general matters:

- Conducted research and advised the Building Inspector regarding the legal requirements for a proposed columbarium on property of a local church.
- Advised the Police Chief and the Board of Selectmen concerning alleged violations of a liquor license by a licensee and participated in the review and preparation of a proposed Consent Agreement, which was subsequently approved by the Board of Selectmen following a public hearing on the violations.
- Worked with the Town Administrator concerning the management of the Request for Proposals for the sale of the real property known as Joslin's Lot, as approved by vote of Town Meeting in 2022.
- Advised the Planning Board concerning citizens requesting the Planning Board to sponsor amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw and the procedures required or available under MGL Chapter 40A.
- Reviewed and revised the proposed decision of the Planning Board concerning a proposed Senior Residential Development on Gulf Street, following the remand hearing required by the Land Court.
- Reviewed the general laws and regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding the procedure and requirements for the Town to consider and approve the budget of the Regional School District.
- Reviewed the title reports for various "developer's streets", as proposed to be accepted by the Town at the Annual Town Meeting; review to confirm owner/developer's good title to convey an easement for street purposes to the Town.
- Worked with the attorney for the developer to complete the process of accepting Pine Street extension as a Town way, as voted by Town Meeting.

Town Counsel

- Reviewed and advised the Board of Selectmen regarding an appeal filed by residents of Stiles Road, appealing a decision of the Building Inspector to issue a building permit for a new radio tower for emergency service communication for various Town departments, to be installed on land owned by the Boylston Water District pursuant to an intermunicipal agreement.
- Drafted and/or reviewed various warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2023.
- Reviewed and revised the proposed Motions for the Annual Town Meeting held on May 1, 2023.
- Prepared a Purchase & Sale Agreement to be entered into between the Town and the owner of property located on School Street, as approved by vote of Town Meeting.
- Assisted the Town Administrator in the preparation and issuance of a Request for Proposals for the lease of property for a wireless communications facility (the current 20-year lease is expiring).
- Reviewed a matter with the Town Planner regarding a contractor working outside of the bounds of the permitted area, as per an Order of Conditions, and informing the Town's Conservation Commission to seek enforcement action.
- Advised the Town's Library regarding requirements of the Massachusetts Designer Selection Law.
- Advised the Police Chief on the procedure required to dispose of surplus materials/goods, as per MGL Chapter 30B and the written policy adopted by the Board of Selectmen.
- Researched and reviewed the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court regarding citizens or advocacy groups seeking to fly a private flag over public property, on a municipal flagpole; advised the Town Administrator regarding the same.
- Researched and reviewed the requirements of the Designer Selection Law relative to the Town seeking qualifications from architects to conduct a feasibility study concerning the Gough House.
- Worked with the Town Administrator to prepare an agreement for architect services to be awarded by the Town to the architect selected to prepare a feasibility study concerning the Gough House.

Town Counsel

Relative to active litigation matters, my office is representing the Town in the following cases:

- **Boylston CP, LLC and Sewall Gravel Pit, LLC v. Town of Boylston Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and Building Commissioner**, filed in Worcester Superior Court Department in May 2021, Docket No. 2185 CV 00539. In this litigation, the Plaintiff is seeking to have the Town's Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw, requiring the production of affordable housing units or payments made to the Town in lieu of construction of affordable housing units, declared invalid by the Court. The matter is pending.
- **Boylston Sportsmen's Club, Inc. v. Town of Boylston**, filed in Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2285CV00046, on January 14, 2022, the lawsuit alleges unspecified damages for the alleged taking of and/or diminution in value of the plaintiff's land located in Boylston, arising from certain improvements to existing public ways (School Street and Cross Street), as completed by the Town. The Town denies that it was required to adopt an order of taking in order to make the improvements or alterations within the existing public roadway layouts, abutting the Plaintiff's property, and that the Plaintiff has suffered no damages. The matter is pending before the Superior Court in Worcester.
- **Boylston CP, LLC vs. Kim Ames, Peter Caruso, Corinna Javier, Homaira Naseem, Mark Johnson, and Richard Baker, as they comprise the Town of Boylston Planning Board, Land Court Docket No. 22 000053**. This case was filed with the Land Court on February 2, 2022, and the Plaintiffs, Boylston CP, LLC, seek to have the court overturn the decision of the Planning Board in denying an application for Special Permit under the Town's Senior Residential Development Zoning Bylaw for property located on Gulf Street. The Land Court remanded the matter to the Planning Board and, pursuant to the Remand Order, the Plaintiffs submitted a revised plan to address the Planning Board's original objections. The Planning Board approved the Plaintiff's revised plan with conditions and the parties settled the litigation by filing a Joint Stipulation of Dismissal with the Land Court. This matter is now closed.
- **Eric J. Henderson v. John Annunziata, as Chief of Police for the Town of Boylston, Docket No.: 2268CV000082**. This case was filed in Clinton District Court and concerns the Police Chief's decision to suspend a resident's license to carry a firearm. On June 13, 2022, the resident appealed the Chief's decision to the District Court. In an order dated October 24, 2022, the Clinton District Court upheld the decision of the Town's Police Chief. On November 22, 2022, Mr. Henderson filed a Notice of Appeal regarding appellate review of the decision. On November 29, 2022, the Clinton District Court granted leave for Mr. Henderson to file his appeal. This matter is pending appeal before the Superior Court in Worcester.

Town Counsel

I look forward to working with all Town departments, boards, commissions, and employees in 2024 and continuing to provide the Town with effective and efficient legal services.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Madaus
Town Counsel

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk, with the assistance of Town Hall staff, devoted hundreds of hours to the Town Hall Records Archives Project – during workdays and after hours on a volunteer basis. By the end of 2023 almost all records had been re-organized, boxed/labeled, and included in an archives database; or destroyed, if the records were determined to be past their useful life. Facilities Manager Bob Bourassa built and installed piping for the storage of plans and Town Clerk Dawn Porter developed a grid system for easy accessibility. Shelving was ordered and will be installed in early 2024. Next steps involve fine-tuning the records database and developing a formal records management system to ensure that the archives and database remain well-organized and up to date.

It was a year off from State Elections and there were no Special Town Meetings, but the Tahanto Auditorium was packed for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Voters turned out in droves to have their say regarding the proposed School Budget. We almost hit capacity for the auditorium, necessitating either a change in venue or the designation of an overflow room prior to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Voters patiently waited in long lines to check in at the Town Meeting, similar to the lines encountered during the 2022 State Elections Cycle. As a result, several steps were taken in 2023 to improve voter wait times at upcoming town meetings and elections.

- Town Clerk Dawn Porter secured State funding for the purchase of three new, faster speed tabulators to be used during elections.
- With a 2023 budget surplus, the Town Clerk was also able to purchase two additional poll pads to be used to speed up check-in at town meetings and elections.
- In 2024, the Town Clerk's Office will hold sessions for the advance removal of mail-in ballots prior to Election Day and will process mail-in ballots through a Central Tabulation Facility. Both practices are aimed at improving voter wait times.

Town Meeting highlights included an increase to the Finance Committee-proposed School Budget, approval for the Town's purchase of approximately 30 acres of land known as the Sewall Street Forrest, the acceptance of Pine Street as a public way, and the acceptance of M.G.L., Chapter 140, Section 139, Paragraph 6, which states that "no fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 or older". The Town voted in favor of making the Office of Town Clerk an appointed position, though the change is subject to the passing of a ballot question at next year's Annual Town Election.

The Town Clerk took and passed the 16-hour Certified Municipal Clerk's Exam, allowing Dawn Porter to apply for the designation of C.M.C. This will be the first time in Boylston's history that a Town Clerk has held this designation. Hopefully obtaining this certification will set a marker for Boylston Town Clerks moving forward.

We look forward to an exciting Presidential Elections Year in 2024, though adequate staffing/hours to keep pace with mail-in voting demands is a concern.

Our office hours remain 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 6 to 8 p.m., Monday evenings. We take pride in providing outstanding customer service to residents; when possible offering appointment times outside of business hours, delivering marriage and death certificates to residents, and providing off-site Notary Services. Suggestions as to how we can improve our service to residents, voters, and business owners are always welcome.

Town Clerk

Vital Statistics

Births Recorded	37	Deaths Recorded	35
Intentions of Marriage Filed	24	Marriages Recorded	22

Population

Residents of Boylston as of December 31st, 2023... 5,139

Licensing/Permits

Business Certificates Recorded/Renewed	28
Dog Licenses Issued	643
Kennel Licenses Issued	2
Raffle Permits Issued	7

Voter Information

Unenrolled	3,030	Democrat	683
Republican	482	Libertarian	17
United Independent Party	11	Inter 3 rd Party	4
Green Rainbow	3	Conservative	2
Socialist	1	We the People	1
Pirate	1	American Independent	1

Registered Voters as of December 31st, 2023... 4,236.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn A. Porter
Boylston Town Clerk

Town of Boylston

Annual Town Election - May 8th, 2023

Notice to Town of Boylston Voters was given and Specimen Ballots were posted as required by law. The voting machine was tested at least three (3) days prior to Election as required by law. Voters of the Town of Boylston met at Hillside Gymnasium, Town Hall, 221 Main Street, for the Annual Town Election according to legal notice. The ballot box was examined by the Warden and the Town Clerk in view of the Constable. The polls were declared open by the Clerk at 1200 hours and were closed at 2000 hours.

There are 4,146 registered voters in Boylston; 310 turned out to vote. 7.5% voter turnout. The counter on the ballot box, computer printout of results, and check-lists concurred that 310 ballots, including absentee ballots, were cast.

Board of Assessors (3 years)

*REBECCA DONO HEALY	266
Blanks	44
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>0</u>
Total	310

Board of Health (3 years)

*JOHN F. WENTZELL	276
Blanks	33
Write-Ins	0
All Other	<u>1</u>
Total	310

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

*BARBARA R. SEED	278
Blanks	30
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>2</u>
Total	310

Cemetery Commission (1 year unexpired)

Blanks	297
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>13</u>
Total	310

Library Trustees (2 years unexpired)

Blanks	279
Write-Ins	
*AZUCENA FILSINGER	22
All Others	<u>09</u>
Total	310

Library Trustees – (3 years, 2 seats)

*ARLENE A. MURPHY	261
*SUSAN A. THERRIAULT	246
Blanks	105
Write-Ins	
Azucena S. Filsinger	08
All Others	<u>0</u>
Total	620

Municipal Light Board (3 years)

*STEVEN R. MERO	278
Blanks	31
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>0</u>
Total	310

Town of Boylston

Annual Town Election - May 8th, 2023

Board of Selectmen (3 years)

*SETH RIDINGER	276
Blanks	28
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>6</u>
Total	310

Planning Board (5 years)

*PETER A. CARUSO, JR.	254
Blanks	53
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>03</u>
Total	310

Parks & Recreation Commission (3 years, 2 seats)

*ARIELLE R. STRZELEWICZ	257
*CLAUDINE UNDERWOOD	247
Blanks	115
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>1</u>
Total	620

Town Clerk – (3 years)

*DAWN A. PORTER	284
Blanks	28
Write-Ins	0
All Others	<u>4</u>
Total	310

WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 1, 2023
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER: SS

BOYLSTON

To either of the Constables of the Town of Boylston in the County of Worcester within The Commonwealth aforesaid:

GREETING:

In the name of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Boylston aforesaid, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the following places and times for the following purposes:

1. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – May 1, 2023

on the **First (1st) Monday, of May AD, 2023 at seven o'clock (7:00) P.M., at the Tahanto Regional High School Auditorium or another location on the grounds thereof, 1001 Main Street, Boylston MA**, to take any action relative to the business of the Town as set forth in Articles one (1) through twenty-nine (29) of this Warrant; and at its adjournment, which shall be upon completion of Town Meeting action upon all articles listed on the Warrant.

2. ELECTION AND BALLOT – MAY 8, 2023

on **Monday, the ninth (9th) of May AD, 2023**, to vote by ballot at the Town's annual election, at the Boylston Town Hall, at the Hillside Municipal Complex located at 221 Main Street within the Town of Boylston, **with polls opening at twelve o'clock (12:00) noon and closing at eight o'clock (8:00) P.M.** on the following:

***ARTICLE 29.** To vote by official ballot for the necessary Town Officers, namely:

One Selectman for three (3) years; One Town Clerk for three (3) years; One Assessor for three (3) years; One Board of Health Member for (3) years; One Planning Board Member for five (5) years; One Municipal Light Board Member for three (3) years; Two Library Trustees for three (3) years; One Library Trustee to fill open seat for (2) year unexpired term; One Cemetery Commissioner for three (3) years; One Cemetery Commissioner to fill open seat for (1) year unexpired term; Two Parks and Recreation Commissioners for three (3) years.

Voters of the Town of Boylston, Massachusetts, met in the auditorium of Tahanto Regional Middle High School according to legal notice on May 8th, 2023. With 374 registered voters (9.03% turnout), the required quorum was met.

Kimberly Rozak, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Ms. Rozak stated that she had been informed by the Clerk that the Calling of the Meeting and the Officer's Return of Service were in order as required.

She made a MOTION to waive the reading of the Warrant in its entirety and a second from the audience was made. VOTE on the MOTION. MOTION passed unanimously.

Ms. Rozak stated that as tradition controls Town Meeting, she would like to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge was said, she introduced herself, April Steward (Town Administrator), Seth Ridinger (Chair of the Board of Selectmen), James Underwood (Vice-Chair of the Board of Selectmen), Matthew Mecum (Clerk of the Board of Selectmen), Stephen Madaus (Town Counsel), and Dawn Porter (Town Clerk). Ms. Rozak then set the bounds of the hall.

The Moderator informed attendees that the Town has traditionally entered into a consent calendar to group Articles 1-10 together. She asked for and received a MOTION to enter into a consent calendar. The MOTION was seconded. VOTE was taken and MOTION passed with no opposition.

***ARTICLE 1.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to choose all necessary Town officers; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

***ARTICLE 2.** To hear and act upon the reports of Town officials and committees; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

***ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to employ Counsel where, in their judgment, it may be necessary; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

***ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the financial fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, and to issue a note or notes therefor and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one (1) year in accordance with Chapter 44 of the General Laws; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

***ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Trustees of the Public Library to appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and to fix the compensation therefor, consistent with the Personnel Plan; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Library Trustees

***ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, including the appointment of a Cemetery Superintendent, and to fix the compensation therefor, consistent with the Personnel Plan; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Cemetery Commissioners

***ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Planning Board to appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and to fix the compensation therefor, consistent with the Personnel Plan; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Planning Board

***ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the money received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Library grant-in-aid for the purpose of purchasing books and other items at the discretion of the Library Trustees; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Library Trustees

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

***ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote the income from sales of electricity to private consumers, or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or for municipal power, and from jobbing during the current fiscal year, be appropriated for the Municipal Light Plant, the whole to be expensed by the Manager of the Municipal

Light Plant, under the direction and control of the Municipal Light Board, for the expense of the Plant for said fiscal year, as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws; and for the purchase, sale, installation and servicing of merchandise and equipment in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 235 of the Acts of 1937; and for any out of state travel expense in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, and if said sum and income shall exceed said expense for the fiscal year, such excess shall be transferred to the Construction Fund of said Plant and appropriated and used for such additions thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Municipal Light Board; and fix the compensation of the Municipal Light Board members for the year beginning July 1, 2023, as provided by Section 4A of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as follows: Chairman - \$1,000.00 and two (2) members - \$1,000.00 each, a total of \$3,000.00, and such compensation to be paid from the operating account of the Municipal Light Plant; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Municipal Light Board

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

***ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to accept any highway funds from State or Federal agencies, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements with MassDOT – Highway Division, so-called, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow from time to time during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, in anticipation of reimbursement of said highway assistance, in conformity with the provisions of Section 6A of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, for maintenance, repair, construction of Town roads and programs consistent with Chapter 90 funds, to be expended by the Highway Department; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Highway Superintendent

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

Ms. Rozak asked for a MOTION to approve Articles 1-10. A MOTION was made and seconded. The Finance Committee recommends approval of all ten Articles. VOTE was taken and passed unanimously.

The Moderator then took a moment to ask all guests to move into the front row only, to ensure accuracy when counting votes.

Ms. Rozak asked the Town to move on to Article 11, concerning compensation for Town Officers.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation for the following Town Officers: three (3) Selectmen, Town Clerk, Moderator, three (3) Assessors, three (3) School Committee members, three (3) Board of Health members, three (3) Cemetery Commissioners, five (5) Planning Board members, all in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Committee, and to instruct the Selectmen or other boards to fix a given compensation for the persons hired or appointed by such boards;

Selectmen, Chair	\$1,781	2 members each at	\$1,483.14
Town Clerk	\$46,805		
Town Moderator	\$0		
Assessors, Chair	\$1,844	2 members each at	\$1,230.64
Board of Health, Chair	\$362	2 members each at	\$241.89
Cemetery Commission, Chair	\$277	2 members each at	\$210.06
Planning Board, Chair	\$457	4 members each at	\$73.20
Planning Board, Vice-Chair	\$72		
Planning Board Clerk	\$74		

Or act in any way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by James Underwood that the Town approve changes in the compensation of Town Officers as printed in the Warrant. The MOTION was seconded and, with no discussion, a VOTE was taken. The MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Personnel Plan and By-laws by replacing Schedules A, B and C with the following: or act in any other way thereon.: (proposed changes are in **bold**)

Section 15: Classification Schedule Amended May 2023 - Effective July 1, 2023

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Position Status</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Library Page	Hourly	1
Election Worker	Hourly	1
Town Meeting Checker	Hourly	1
Election Clerk	Hourly	1
Election Warden	Hourly	1
Clerical	Special Temp	1
Library Housekeeper	Special Part Time	1
Council on Aging Van Driver	Reg. Part Time	1
Council on Aging Van Scheduler	Reg. Part Time	2
Asst. Laborer	Special Hourly	2
Library Asst./Sr. Technician	Reg. Part Time	3
Laborer/Custodian	Reg. Full Time	3
On Call Emergency Medical Technician	Hourly	3
On Call Firefighter	Hourly	3
Deputy Chief	Hourly	3 + \$500
Senior Library Assistant	Reg. Part Time	4
Asst. Town Clerk	Special Part Time	5
Police Service Aide	Hourly	5
Asst. Inspector/Electrician	Hourly	5
Assessor's Clerk	Reg. Part Time	5
Children's Librarian	Reg. Part Time	5
P&R Program Coordinator	Reg. Full Time	5
Equipment Operator/Laborer I	Reg. Full Time	6
Assistant Treasurer/Collector	Reg. Part Time	6
Assistant Library Director	Reg. Part Time	7
Admin Asst. to Board of Assessors	Reg. Part Time	7
Admin Asst. to Highway Superintendent	Reg. Part Time	7
Admin Asst. to Chief of Police	Reg. Part Time	7
Admin Asst. to Planning Board	Reg. Part Time	7
Admin Asst. to Board of Selectmen	Reg. Part Time	7
Equipment Operator/Mechanic I	Reg. Full Time	7
Equipment Operator/Laborer II	Reg. Full Time	8
Working Foreman	Reg. Full Time	8
COA Co-ord./Community Outreach	Reg. Part Time	8
Admin Asst. to Health & Conservation	Reg. Part Time	8
Human Resources Administrator	Reg. Part Time	8
Town Treasurer/Collector	Reg. Full Time	9
Foreman	Reg. Full Time	9
Building Inspector	Salaried	10
Library Director	Salaried	11
Highway/Cemetery Superintendent	Salaried	12 + \$845
Facilities Technician	Reg. Full Time	13
Town Planner	Reg. Part Time	14
Town Accountant	Reg. Part Time	14
Fire Chief	Salaried	Contract

Police Chief
Town Administrator

Salaried
Salaried

Contract
Contract

Schedule B: Salary Compensation Schedule

Grade	Min	Mid	Max
1	\$14.32	\$15.71	\$18.04
2	\$14.53	\$17.20	\$19.82
3	\$15.75	\$18.59	\$21.40
4	\$16.95	\$20.00	\$23.02
5	\$18.34	\$21.58	\$24.80
6	\$19.83	\$23.33	\$26.83
7	\$21.45	\$25.20	\$28.94
8	\$23.12	\$27.20	\$31.26
9	\$25.02	\$29.38	\$33.72
10	\$27.01	\$31.73	\$36.48
11	\$29.22	\$34.30	\$39.38
12	\$31.48	\$36.98	\$42.50
13	\$33.99	\$39.95	\$45.91
14	\$36.68	\$43.00	\$49.55
15	\$39.67	\$46.59	\$53.51
16	\$42.82	\$50.31	\$57.79
17	\$46.23	\$54.35	\$62.46
18	\$49.84	\$58.64	\$67.41

Schedule C: Salary Compensation Schedule-

Job Title	Annual Salary
Chairman, Registrar of Voters	\$904.95
Director of Veteran's Services	\$262.04
Electrical Inspector	\$20,043.58
Assistant Electrical Inspector	\$1,379.17
Plumbing Inspector	\$14,778.34
Assistant Plumbing Inspector	\$1,227.46
Gas Inspector	\$7,296.87
Assistant Gas Inspector	\$624.87
Registrar of Voters	\$351.16
Health Agent	\$50,391.69
Dog Officer	\$2,834.72
Animal Inspector	\$1,807.77
Nurse	\$16,480.00
Vital Stat Clerk	\$206.00
Tree Warden	\$1,529.82

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Matt Mecum that the Town amend the Town's Personnel Plan and By-Laws as printed in the Warrant. The MOTION was seconded. There was no discussion. A VOTE was taken and the MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$58,850 for the purpose of continued repairs at the Hillside Town Buildings; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Seth Ridinger to transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum not to exceed \$458,850 for the purpose of continued repairs at the Hillside Town Buildings. A second was made and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$150,000 for the purpose of procuring a new pickup truck for the Highway Department; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Highway Department

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Highway Superintendent Steve Mero that the Town transfer \$150,000 from Free Cash to procure a new truck with hydraulic sander and plow for the Highway Department. The MOTION was seconded and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$36,025 for the purpose of completing Phase II of the PARC grant requirements for the Harrington Park project, so called; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Highway Department

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Eric Hoffses, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, that the Town transfer and appropriate \$36,025 from Free Cash for the purpose of completing Phase II of the PARC grant requirements for the Harrington Park Project. A second was made and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$65,000 for the purpose of procuring a new police cruiser for the Police Department; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Police Department

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by James Underwood that the Town transfer and appropriate \$65,000 from Free Cash to purchase a new police cruiser for the Police Department. A second was made and a VOTE was taken. The MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will transfer the balance of the amount initially borrowed to pay costs of the new Highway Department building project, which amount is no longer needed to complete that project, to pay additional costs of the Town Library project, so-called; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Matt Mecum that the Town transfer \$86,915.79, the remaining balance of funds borrowed to pay for the new Highway Department building project and is no longer needed to complete the project, to pay additional costs of the Town Library renovation project. A second was made and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Ambulance Receipts Reserved and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$9,575 for the purpose of funding the Town's 5% matching portion of the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Fire Department

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Fire Chief Joseph Flanagan that the Town transfer from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved and appropriate \$9,575 to pay the Town's 5% matching portion of the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. A second was made and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Ambulance Receipts Reserved and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$9,000 for the purpose of purchasing a replacement pulse oximeter, stretcher batteries, and to fund preventative maintenance on the stretchers in both ambulances.; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Fire Department

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Joseph Flanagan that the Town transfer from Ambulance Receipts Reserved and appropriate \$9,000 for the purchase of a replacement pulse oximeter, stretcher batteries, and to fund preventative maintenance on the stretchers in both ambulances. A second was made and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to:

- (1) Transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum not to exceed \$300,000 for the purpose of paying the down payment for a new fire engine for the Fire Department; and
- (2) Authorize, under General Laws Chapter 44, Section 21C and, upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, a lease purchase financing agreement for the acquisition of a new fire engine, which qualifies as equipment that may be acquired through the issuance of debt under G.L. c. 44, the term of such agreement not to exceed 10 years, the useful life of the fire engine as determined by the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to enter into such agreement on behalf of the Town, subject to approval of an appropriation for the first year payment as set for the in the Town Budget, as shown in the Fiscal Year 2024 Report of the Finance Committee; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Fire Department

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

A MOTION was made by Joseph Flanagan that the Town:

- (1) Transfer \$300,000 from Free Cash for the down payment for a new fire engine for the Fire Department, and
- (2) Authorize the lease purchase financing agreement for the acquisition of a new fire engine and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into such agreement on behalf of the Town, subject to approval of an appropriation for the first-year payment as set forth in the Town Budget, as shown in the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Report of the Finance Committee.

A second was made and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following streets as public ways as laid out heretofore by the Board of Selectmen and according to the boundaries and measurements shown on plans on file at the office of the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire on behalf of the Town by purchase, gift, or taking by eminent domain an easement for public street purposes in said ways and to acquire any other necessary easements, including drainage easements as shown on the plans, sufficient to use said ways for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Boylston; or act in any other way thereon.

- Longley Hill Road, plans entitled “Street Acceptance Plan Longley Hill Road Boylston, MA”, dated April 12, 2023, prepared by HST Group
- Pine Street, plans entitled “Street Acceptance Plan Boylston Massachusetts, Prepared for Pine Street Boylston Realty LLC 603 Cross Street Boylston, MA 01505”, prepared by Tauper Land Survey Inc.
- Compass Pointe Circle, plans entitled “Steet Layout Plan Compass Circle and Cheryl’s Way Boylston, Massachusetts Sheet 1 and 2” prepared by New England Engineering
- Cheryl’s Way, plans entitled “Steet Layout Plan Compass Circle and Cheryl’s Way Boylston, Massachusetts Sheet 1 and 2” prepared by New England Engineering

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Planning Board Recommendation: To be made at Town Meeting

Mark Johnson, Planning Board Chair, made a MOTION to accept Pine Street and pass over Longley Hill Road, Compass Pointe Circle, and Cheryl’s Way. Chip Burkhardt, Chair of the Conservation Commission, stated that the Conservation Commission also recommends acceptance of Pine Street and the passing over of Longley Hill Road, Compass Pointe Circle, and Cheryl’s Way.

Peter Williamson of 37A Compass Circle took the floor. He expressed disappointment that Compass Pointe and Cheryl’s Way are not being accepted. Peter went on to say that he and his wife, Ellen, have lived in town for over six years without their road being approved. Compass Pointe includes an over 55 community, made up mostly of senior citizens. This community consists of duplexes located on single lots, garnering a lucrative property tax for the Town. Over 55 communities add no burden to the school system and are a win-win for the Town. Peter is very disappointed that the Town has not worked with the builder to get these streets accepted and hopes that friends and neighbors will vote to approve Compass Circle and Cheryl’s Way.

Steve Soucy, 6 Morningdale Avenue, spoke. He expressed concern that Town Meeting is being asked to vote to accept these streets without knowing more about their statuses. He questioned whether utilities have been installed, roads paved, drainage put in, etc., per Municipal Light and Highway Department regulations. If the Town is taking over ownership of these roads we should know if the infrastructure has been installed correctly. The builder needs to be held responsible for completion of all work; the Town shouldn’t incur the potentially sizable costs of accepting unfinished roads. Steve also said that he feels that the question of each individual street’s acceptance should be under separate articles.

Moderator Kim Rozak clarified that the MOTION is only for Pine Street. Per recommendation of the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, Town Meeting is passing over the other three streets mentioned in the Warrant.

Deborah Frank, 45A Compass Circle, assured voters that, to her knowledge, most everything required to accept the streets has been completed. The only item outstanding is the staking of lot lines. Taxes have been increased substantially since she moved in, and she wants the streets to be approved. Deborah would like to see the streets approved contingent upon the lot line stakes being placed. She would like an explanation as to why the streets have not been accepted.

Mark Johnson, Planning Board Chair, encouraged attendance at Planning Board Meetings for those who want to learn more about the streets in question. He then spoke to Deborah's question. He said that the Town works closely with Graves Engineering to ensure that grading, utilities, and drainage are put in correctly. He said that Pine Street is the only road that has met all the requirements of the Town.

Mark continued by stating that Longley Hill has a lengthy list of many outstanding issues. The Planning Board and the Conservation Commission are working with the builder to resolve these issues.

Compass Pointe also has outstanding issues; the Town is working with Graves Engineering to resolve these. Mark noted that the Town won't accept roads with outstanding bond issues, which Compass Pointe has.

Chip Burkhardt, Chair of the Conservation Commission, stated that the developer of Compass Pointe still needs to address several issues. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission held a special meeting just this evening to receive last minute submittals and get as much information as possible from the developer. As of the meeting at 6:15 p.m., there were still no as built plans submitted by the developer and there were still open permits. Chip said that he has been on the Conservation Commission for 18 years and Compass Pointe has been in front of the Commission for all 18 years. There are still several outstanding issues that the developer must resolve. The Town is working with Graves Engineering to get the streets to meet the minimum requirements set by the Town. The developer must complete the checklist of items provided to him by the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission before Compass Pointe and Cheryl's Way can be accepted by the Town.

Ted Shoemaker, 144 Mile Hill Road, expressed a procedural concern. With a lot of work still outstanding on these roads, he feels uncomfortable being asked to vote on an Article where only one of the four items are being recommended for approval. He would like to see each street put in separate articles in the future.

Moderator Kim Rozak said that a MOTION was made to advance one street and pass over the other three. She said that it is lawful and appropriate to have a MOTION that doesn't match the Warrant. She said she is not inclined to change the MOTION that is on the floor.

Kim requested a VOTE on the MOTION. She called for a VOTE to accept Pine Street as a public way and to pass over Longley Hill, Compass Pointe, and Cheryl's Way. She noted that a 2/3 vote is required. With very slight opposition, the MOTION passed with more than 2/3 in favor.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/> download entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received

or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Finance Committee recommends approval.

MOTION was made by James Underwood as written in the Warrant.

A second was made. A VOTE was taken and the Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to approve the Town Clerk's proposed schedule of fees for the licensing of dogs and kennels in accordance with the provisions of G.L. Chapter 140, Section 139, accept the provision in paragraph c therein, which reads "No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over in a city or town that accepts this provision," and amend Section 11, sub-section 11.8 of the General Bylaws in accordance therewith; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Town Clerk's Office

A MOTION was made by Dawn Porter, Town Clerk, to approve the Town Clerk's proposed schedule of fees for the licensing of dogs and kennels in accordance with the provisions of G.L. Chapter 140, Section 139, accept the provision in paragraph c therein, which reads "No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over in a city or town that accepts this provision," and amend Section 11, sub-section 11.8 of the General Bylaws in accordance therewith.

Dawn clarified that by passing this Article the Town would not charge a dog license fee to residents 70 years of age and older. She also stated that standard dog licensing fees would be increased by \$5.00.

The MOTION was seconded and a VOTE was taken. MOTION passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to make the office of the Town Clerk an appointed position, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and to revise Article II, "Legal Affairs", Section 2, "Appointments" of the General Bylaws by inserting a new sub-section 2.4, after sub-section 2.3 therein, to read:

2.4 The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a qualified person to serve as Town Clerk for a term not to exceed three (3) years. The Board Selectmen shall appoint a successor upon a vacancy in the office of the Town Clerk.

Provided, however, that approval of the change of the office of the Town Clerk to an appointed position shall be subject to that acceptance by the voters of the Town at an Annual Town Election, in accordance with G.L. Chapter 41, Section 1B; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Registrars

A MOTION was made by Bonnie Johnson, Chair of the Board of Registrars, that the Town vote to make the office of the Town Clerk an appointed position, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and to revise Article II, "Legal Affairs", Section 2, "Appointments" of the General Bylaws by inserting a new sub-section 2.4, after sub-section 2.3 therein, to read:

2.4 The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a qualified person to serve as Town Clerk for a term not to exceed three (3) years. The Board Selectmen shall appoint a successor upon a vacancy in the office of the Town Clerk.

Provided, however, that approval of the change of the office of the Town Clerk to an appointed position shall be subject to acceptance by the voters of the Town at an Annual Town Election, in accordance with G.L. Chapter 41, Section 1B. The MOTION was seconded.

Jennifer Warren-Dyment of 889 Main Street spoke to the Article. Jennifer is currently the Town Administrator in West Boylston and, prior to that, the Assistant Town Manager in Oxford. She wholeheartedly supports the adoption of this Article. Jennifer stated that we do not require other Town Officials, like Police, Fire, and Town Hall Staff, to go through the elections process. Electing a Town Clerk is a ridiculous holdout from the past. The duties of the Town Clerk are largely statutory. Requirements of the job have changed, increased, and become more complex. It is an ever-evolving position, and extensive professional development is required. The ballot box is not the way to determine who our Town Clerk is. Jennifer asked how many towns in the state still have elected Town Clerks and asked Boylston's sitting Town Clerk for her opinion on the Article.

Town Clerk Dawn Porter responded to Jennifer. She said that this is a question that is being asked all over the state. Several towns have the same article on their warrants this spring. Dawn made it clear that her connection to the Article is very tangential. The Board of Registrars is sponsoring the Article and, if approved at Town Meeting, the Article will become a ballot question at the 2024 Annual Town Election. If approved at Election, the Town Clerk wouldn't actually be appointed until 2026 after the next elected term ends. Still, for ethical reasons, Dawn said that she will attempt to speak only to the requirements of the position.

Dawn confirmed everything that Jennifer said. The job is becoming more and more complex, especially with the addition of mail-in voting and the increased number of public records requests and other complicated matters. She also said that she is personally an advocate for oversight of the office. Voters absolutely have the right to weigh in on this issue and will be given their chance to do so at Town Election next year. However, Dawn feels that most residents don't have a full idea of all that the Town Clerk does, and most residents don't stop by the office to check up on whether the Town Clerk is performing the job. If the Town Clerk is appointed, it allows the Town Administrator and other people who are on-site to provide some oversight to ensure that all duties are being satisfactorily performed. Elected Town Clerks are only required to fulfill statutory duties; they can refuse to do things asked of them by the Town. Elected Town Clerks can also set their own hours; where an appointed Town Clerk may be required to begin work at 8 a.m., an elected Town Clerk doesn't necessarily have to follow those hours. Boylston is growing. The nature of the Town Clerk's Office is changing. Local oversight should be welcomed.

Electing a Town Clerk also limits the pool of candidates with related experience. Despite growth, Boylston is still a fairly small town and our pool of candidates may be small due to the town's size. Dawn agrees that having a Town Clerk from Boylston would, if all things are equal, be preferable. However, if there are no qualified candidates from within Boylston, appointing a Town Clerk would allow the Town to look outside of Boylston for someone who has suitable skills and experience.

Lisa Johnson, 4 Underwood Avenue, spoke. Lisa stated that she is the Interim Town Clerk in Leicester and has also served as Interim Town Clerk in Spencer. She said that both towns are larger than Boylston, but both have elected, rather than appointed, Town Clerks. Although Lisa would like to continue working in Leicester, she is supportive of the position remaining elected.

Lisa went on to say that in May 1999 Town Meeting was asked to vote on this same question. The Town voted yes. At Town Election, however, 58% of the Town voted no. All Town Clerks report to residents and work with Town Officials. Lisa would like to know why the Town is putting off having the question on Town Election Ballot until next year. Lisa stated that while the job is complex, there are mentoring and continuing education courses available. Every election cycle, the State Elections Division makes changes.

Elected Town Clerks may not know what to do when they first come into the job, but they can learn. Lisa said she believes the position should remain elected.

Chair of the Board of Registrars, Bonnie Johnson, spoke to Lisa's question. She said that this is a two-year process; putting the Article in front of Town Meeting now, and then as a question on the following year's election ballot. Bonnie agreed with the West Boylston Town Administrator, saying that the job is very technical, and that the Town relies on the Town Clerk for an incredible number of things.

Bonnie went on to say that we have a great Town Clerk in Dawn Porter. None of this is about Dawn. In the last 40 years, there have been four or five different Town Clerks. The position is becoming more and more technical, and the pool of qualified candidates is becoming smaller and smaller. With most boards and committees, like the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen, there is a rotation of membership so you can learn as you go. There is only one Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is put on the spot and gets one shot to get it right.

Next Monday, you will be given the opportunity to vote at the ballot box and Dawn Porter's name will be on the ballot. If Dawn gets elected, she will be Town Clerk for the next three years. If the Town supports appointment, it will be in the following year, 2026, that a Town Clerk will be first appointed. If Dawn retires, or if the position opens up for any other reason, the Board of Registrars, the Town Administrator, and Human Resources will come up with candidates to present to the Board of Selectmen. I encourage Town Meeting to vote yes to move the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed.

A VOTE was taken. MOTION passed with slight dissent.

Moderator Kim Rozak said that this issue will come up not next week, but a year from now, and you will get to make your decision then.

ARTICLE 25. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate, transfer from available funds in the Treasury, or borrow for the purchase of a parcel of land containing approximately 30.08 acres, more particularly shown on Assessors Map 23 as Parcel 25, containing 30.08 acres +/-, located on the west side of School Street and further described in a deed recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 60034, Page 136; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Will make recommendation at Town Meeting

Seth Ridinger made a MOTION that the Town vote to:

- (1) Appropriate \$1,050,000 for the purchase of a parcel of land containing approximately 30.08 acres, more particularly shown on Assessors Map 23 as Parcel 25, located on the west side of School Street and further described in a deed recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 60034, Page 136, including all ancillary costs and fees related thereto, said property to be purchased for conservation and passive recreation purposes pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 8C, as it may hereafter be amended, and other general laws relating to conservation, to be held and managed under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission;
- (2) To meet said appropriation the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, sections 7, and 8C, or any other enabling authority available to the Town, and to issue bonds or notes therefore, and further, that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to apply for, accept and expend any private, federal, or state aid, grants or donations that are or may become available for these purposes, provided, however, that the total amount authorized to be borrowed by this vote shall be reduced to the extent of any private, federal or state grants or donations are received for such purposes; and further,

- (3) To authorize the Conservation Commission to seek reimbursement of funds expended for such purposes under the LAND program, MGL Chapter 132A, section 11; and
- (4) To authorize Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and to execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to affect said purchase and the purposes herein.

Chair of the Finance Committee, Eric Brose, said that the Finance Committee does not recommend approval, but notes that the vote of the Committee was split three to three.

Seth Ridinger stated that this Article is about 30 acres of land, commonly known as the Bud Lane property. He continued to say that while the timing is not ideal, the Board of Selectmen feels that this is an opportunity that should be presented to the Town. The price that is being negotiated is \$1,000,000, with up to an additional \$50,000 in closing costs. The Town plans to apply for a land grant through the State, and Seth is cautiously optimistic that, along with private donations, this could defray up to 50% of the purchase price. If the Town is unsuccessful in obtaining a land grant, based on the average \$460,000 sales price of a Boylston home, the tax impact would be between \$55 and \$65.

The Moderator opened the floor up for discussion but, as it appears that several residents would like to speak, she asked that comments be kept brief.

Bob Richard of 632 Main Street thanked the Board for the second look at the property. He noted that once an opportunity like this is gone, it is gone forever. Explosive growth in this area is apparent and this is an opportunity to preserve the rural character of the town. While this is not the greatest time to ask people to pay more in taxes it will be well worth it in five, ten, or twenty years. For the cost of pizza from Boylston House, we will be preserving a wildlife corridor for all to enjoy. He asked that the Town vote yes on this Article.

Chris White of 38 Warren Street noted that this same property was on the Town Meeting Warrant last year at the lower price of \$980,000. It was originally purchased for \$250,000 by Sewall Street LLC four years ago. The property contains a lot of ledge and will be very expensive to develop. The price is ridiculous and with the approximately 15% tax increase we can already expect from this year's budget, we shouldn't add more in taxes. He has bought enough pizzas with land purchases over the years, and we don't need to add another \$55 or so to our taxes. Please vote no on this Article.

Brian Mahoney, 182 School Street, said that once land is developed, it's gone. If the town wants to look like Shrewsbury or Auburn we should go ahead and allow this land to be developed. If we want to keep the rural feel of the town, we don't want to allow this development to happen.

Bonnie Johnson, 5 Pine Street, said that she is surrounded by development so she does have an understanding of the situation. She used to be on the Parks and Recreation Commission however, and \$1,000,000 spent on the Manor Park would affect every kid in the town. She urged voters to look at the Manor and said that is where we want to put our money. It is already in disarray, needing new tennis courts and improved drainage. \$1,000,000 would go a long way. Bonnie would like to see the money put into something that benefits the whole town.

Jim Benson of 363 Mile Hill Road said that the purchase of this land should be viewed as a luxury item. There are a lot of things that need to be done in town, especially to support the schools. Over the last six months Jim's property taxes have increased over \$1,000. He feels that money would be better spent on the schools - on the staff members and on our children's futures.

Ann Wynne of 76 Sewall Street said she wants to see Boylston keep space to walk, take dogs, and run around. She would like to see Boylston retain its small town atmosphere. If this land is developed, the town will be taxing an already overburdened school system. The development of the land will further strain the schools, the Fire and the Police Departments. There is ledge where Federal Express was built and look at it now; someone will buy this land and develop it if the Town doesn't buy it. Please vote yes and keep this land for conservation.

Cathy Blumenthal of 70 Sewall Street said the land is developable and, if this contractor doesn't develop it, someone else will. There are already housing developments at both ends of Sewall Street. Where will all the cars and trucks go with a potential three developments being put in? Cathy won't want to drive on Route 140 or Sewall Street once these projects are developed. We can't handle the traffic we have now.

Moderator Kim Rozak explained that because the Finance Committee does not recommend approval of this Article, the Town will be conducting a physical ballot vote. She provided voters with instructions on how to separate their green paper ballots to be collected for counting. She also explained that the VOTE requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

Seth Ridinger requested to speak one more time. He said that this opportunity will never be presented again to the community. This area is already densely developed. Clear cutting and building a bunch of houses will increase the drain on the town's infrastructure, road maintenance, public safety, and schools. If we believe in preserving the rural character of the town, and we want to keep some of what makes Boylston special, he urged the town to vote yes.

A paper VOTE and count took place. VOTE passes by more than a 2/3 majority. 291 yes, 68 no.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map, established by Section 3.01, paragraph 18 of the Zoning Bylaws, so as to place the entirety of the parcel shown on Assessors Map 23 as Parcel 25, containing 30.08 acres +/-, located on the west side of School Street and further described in a deed recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 60034, Page 136, which is currently located in the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District, into the Residential (R) Zoning District. Said Parcel is shown as Lot C on a plan on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

Sponsor: Property Owner's Petition

Planning Board Recommendation: To be made at Town Meeting

Patrick Healy of 25 Sewall Street, a professional engineer for Thompson Liston Associates, working for 85 Sewall Street, LLC, made a MOTION that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Map, established by Section 3.01, paragraph 18 of the Zoning Bylaws, so as to place the entirety of the parcel shown on Assessors Map 23 as Parcel 25, containing 30.08 acres +/-, located on the west side of School Street and further described in a deed recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 60034, Page 136, which is currently located in the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District, into the Residential (R) Zoning District. Said Parcel is shown as Lot C on a plan on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk. A second was made.

Mark Johnson, Planning Board Chair, said the Planning Board chooses not to offer any guidance or recommendations on this MOTION.

Patrick Healy made a brief presentation petitioning to re-zone the land. Patrick stated that, yes, this is in fact the same parcel of land that the Town just voted to purchase, but the petition to re-zone from Rural Residential to Residential stands. Patrick noted that per Boylston's Table of Uses, Residential Zoning is more inclusive than Rural Residential. Re-zoning opens up different opportunities for the Town. In this particular proposal, up to 60 units of over 55 housing could be built. The town has a need for transitional housing for those moving from single-family housing to assisted living. Making this zoning change would allow the Town to build this type of development in the future if desired. The benefits of using this property towards the development of

this type of over 55 senior housing are that the land is located on the public water system, buffers along the ponds and wetlands would be maintained, School Street is a collector street, there would be an open tract of land for walking trails, senior housing wouldn't add students to the school system, and the development would leave a small footprint. Re-zoning to Residential from Rural Residential provides the Town with opportunities like this one. Leaving the land zoned as Rural Residential does not allow for this type of development.

To clear up any confusion about the relationship between Articles 25 and 26, Selectman Matt Mecum clarified that Article 26 was placed on the Warrant by the current landowner, not the Town.

Gerry Quam, 3 Smallwood Circle, asked for a MOTION to pass over the Article.

Selectman James Underwood said that the Article should not be passed over as there is no Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property yet.

Moderator Kim Rozak confirmed that the Article will not be passed over. She stated that there is already a MOTION and a second to the MOTION. The Town will hear from residents on the MOTION that is on the floor.

Mark Johnson, 85 Mile Hill Road spoke; not as a Planning Board Member, but as a resident. Mark said there's no Purchase and Sale Agreement; the Town hasn't purchased the land yet. Re-zoning could potentially make the land more valuable, potentially increasing the sales price. Voting to re-zone the parcel as Residential could potentially cause negotiations to fall apart as the result of the parcel's value increasing. The Town should keep the purchase price down, vote this Article down, and leave the land zoned as Rural Residential.

Bill Filsinger, 372 Central Street, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the last 18 years, spoke to the Article saying that his first thought was that this is spot zoning. Spot zoning, unless there is a very good reason for it, is illegal in Massachusetts. Bill said that he did a little research and would like to read an excerpt from land court where a group of plaintiffs sued the Town of Swampscott. Part of the judge's ruling in the case reads as follows, "Spot zoning is impermissible because it violates the uniformity principle and occurs where there is a singling out of one lot for different treatment from that accorded to similar surrounding land indiscriminable from its character all for the economic benefit of the owner of the lot". Spot zoning is illegal, this is spot zoning, and Bill urged a "no" vote for this Article.

Richard Baker, 250 School Street, an Associate Planning Board Member, spoke as a private citizen. Richard began by saying that he had come prepared with notes from the same land court excerpt that Bill just read. Not only is this spot zoning, but nothing in the Article requires the developer to build what he is proposing; he will build whatever creates the most profit. Rural Residential is the largest zoning district in town. The owner is asking for a zoning change for his individual parcel. Why his land and not everyone else's? The parcel should stay Rural Residential. Changing the zoning of the land is a terrible, arbitrary idea; not justified by rational land-use planning. Richard disagrees with Mr. Healy: Boylston does need housing options for our seniors, but it is not clear that this re-zoning proposal will provide that. Richard is voting no on this Article and urges the Town to do the same.

Steve Soucy, 6 Morningdale Avenue, noted that the Town just voted to buy this land for conservation purposes. He urges the Town to vote no and keep the land Rural Residential, forcing the Town to keep it for conservation.

Matt Mecum stated that the grants the Town will be applying for, and even the donations that may be secured through private philanthropists, will require that the land be used as conservation.

Bob Richard, 632 Main Street, urged voters not to rush into anything. If re-zoning is desired, it can be considered after the land purchase. He also stated that he finds it disingenuous at best that a town member

would represent a firm professionally and try to make a zoning change immediately after the Town voted for the land purchase.

Patrick Healy spoke to Bob's comment saying that he doesn't believe it is disingenuous for a community member to represent a landowner. Patrick is in the land development business, just as anyone who surveys land, presents plans to boards like the Planning Board or Board of Selectmen. It is his job to assist private landowners with maintaining their private property rights.

Kim called for a vote. Patrick's MOTION is on the floor. Kim called for a second and the MOTION was seconded. Kim went on to clarify that the MOTION is for re-zoning. A yes vote approves the re-zoning; a no vote does not approve the re-zoning.

VOTE was taken and defeated by more than a 2/3 margin. There was very little dissent.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote unanimously adopted under Article 28 at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which read:

To transfer the care, custody and control of a parcel of land located southeasterly of Main Street, adjacent to land of Worcester County Horticultural Society and shown as Parcel 3 on Assessors Plan 48, and as further described in the printed Warrant, from the Tax Title Custodian to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of disposal by sale, for no less than a minimum sales price of \$10,000 and provided that said property shall be subject to a conservation restriction, such that it shall not be built upon.

By inserting the following text at the end thereof:

“, provided, however, the construction of not more than two temporary shelters for hikers, each having a footprint no greater than 10 feet x 10 feet and a height no greater than 15 feet, without utilities and not for permanent occupancy, shall be permitted.”

Or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Citizen's Petition

Penelope Gambino, 2 Clearview Avenue, made a MOTION to see if the Town will vote to amend the vote unanimously adopted under Article 28 at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which read:

To transfer the care, custody and control of a parcel of land located southeasterly of Main Street, adjacent to land of Worcester County Horticultural Society and shown as Parcel 3 on Assessors Plan 48, and as further described in the printed Warrant, from the Tax Title Custodian to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of disposal by sale, for no less than a minimum sales price of \$10,000 and provided that said property shall be subject to a conservation restriction, such that it shall not be built upon.

By inserting the following text at the end thereof:

“, provided, however, the construction of not more than two temporary shelters for hikers, each having a footprint no greater than 10 feet x 10 feet and a height no greater than 15 feet, without utilities and not for permanent occupancy, shall be permitted.”

Or act in any other way thereon.

The MOTION was seconded. Penelope requested that Attorney Patricia Gates, representing New England Botanical Gardens at Town Hill, be allowed to speak. Moderator Kim Rozak granted the request in order to allow for better understanding of the MOTION.

Attorney Gates began by saying that last year a parcel was sold to Tower Hill along with a couple of conditions – that the land be used for conservation and not built upon. Tower Hill, whose mission is conservation, now owns the land; conservation of the land is not the issue. The issue is the exclusive language “not to be built on”. Tower Hill will not be putting any buildings per se on the land; they want to put up safety shelters/rest stops for hikers. This type of shelter can be seen in any state park and is used when walkers need to shelter from a storm or take a short rest. The purpose of the MOTION is not to eliminate the language, but to allow for a narrow exception, the installation of up to two rest stops/shelters. Photos of the rest stop/shelters were provided in the Town Meeting Materials. They are very basic structures and have a very small footprint.

Robert Richard, 632 Main Street, said he is an avid hiker and he loves Tower Hill, but he doesn't see the need for permanent structures that could be targeted for vandalism and loitering by people with ill intent. He feels that the distance of the trail is too short to necessitate such structures.

Attorney Gates responded by saying that the trail length is almost four miles. These structures are considered temporary and could be removed if it seems that they are being used by malcontents.

VOTE was taken and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the Treasury, or otherwise provide the sum of \$21,685,033 (Twenty-One Million, Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Thirty-Three Dollars and zero cents), or any other amount as may be necessary, to defray and pay all Town debts and charges and appropriate the same as the Town sees fit for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023, and to fix the compensation and salaries of all Town Officers, as shown in whole or in part by the Town Budget, so-called, shown in the Fiscal Year 2024 Report of the Finance Committee, for the purpose of operating and maintaining the various departments of the Town; or act in any other way thereon.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee comments: Will make recommendation at Town Meeting.

Eric Brose, 18 Diamond Hill Avenue, Chair of the Finance Committee made a MOTION that the Town appropriate the sum of:

TWENTY-ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND, THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS, which sum includes an appropriation for the Regional School budget in the amounts listed under the column “Finance Committee Recommended FY 2024 Budget” for Account No. 5510 and Account No. 5651, as shown in the proposed FY 2024 budget in the report of the Finance Committee to pay all Town debts and charges and to fix the compensation and salaries of all Town offices, all as shown in the Town Budget, so called, under the column “Proposed FY 2024 Budget” in the Report of the Finance Committee;

AND TO MEET THIS APPROPRIATION:

1. The sum of \$ 95,000 shall be transferred from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and applied to the Fire Department budget;
2. The sum of \$ 1,028,660 shall be transferred from available Free Cash to fund Capital School Improvements at Boylston Elementary School;
3. The sum of \$ 250,000 shall be transferred from available Free Cash to reduce the tax rate; and
4. The balance to be raised from the tax levy.

thereby approving the Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

The MOTION was seconded.

Eric introduced the Finance Committee: Dave Butler, Karen McGahie, Howard Drobner, Greg Cusimano, and Stephanie Miczek, and then explained the summary sheet prepared by the Finance Committee and included in Town Meeting Materials.

Eric continued by saying that the School Committee will make a motion to amend the budget to a higher figure than what is presented here. This number may not include the entire \$270,000. They may ask for a slightly lower figure by filling the gap with non-recurring funds (essentially savings), but it will still cost the Town the amount shown.

The Finance Committee's recommended budget meets all of the primary needs of the schools. We need to be concerned for not only the schools, but for fixed income homeowners as well. There will most likely be a Proposition 2 ½ Override next year. The positions that will be added this year through the use of savings will be most at risk next year.

Lori-Anne Hart, 194 Central Street, spoke on behalf of the School Committee. Lori said that she has a motion whose purpose is not to seek more money on the town floor, but to ensure that the relevant Massachusetts Code of Regulations, 603 CMR 41.05, governing regional school districts is followed. The regulation states: "The budget as adopted by the regional school committee and the member's assessment as certified by the treasurer of the regional school district shall be placed before each local appropriating authority for its consideration".

Therefore, I move to AMEND the MOTION of the Finance Committee under Article 28, to increase the amount of the appropriation by \$106,880 to reflect the intended FY2024 budget voted on by the Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee on April 4th, 2023, in lieu of the Finance Committee recommended budget, such that the AMENDED MOTION reads as follows:

Megan Grill, School Committee Member, 27 Compass Circle, continued the MOTION by amending the \$21,955,800 School-Committee recommended FY2024 budget as printed in the Warrant, by asking that the Town appropriate the sum of \$21,791,913 which sum includes an appropriation for the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District budget in the amounts listed under the column "School Committee Recommended FY2024 Budget" for Account 5510 and Account 5651 as follows: Change Account 5510 Elementary Education from \$4,871,688 to \$4,721,688. Change Account 5651 Regular Assessment from \$6,329,720 to \$6,315,833. The balance of the MOTION shall not change.

Jessica Degliaberti, School Committee Member, 1 Scar Hill Road, seconded the MOTION.

David Butler, Finance Committee Member, 247 Green Street, said the Finance Committee does not recommend approval. Moderator Kim Rozak opened the floor for discussion regarding whether there should be an amendment.

Jessica Moore Degliaberti spoke as a private resident. She stated that she takes this issue very personally. While growing up in Boylston, Jessica remembers arguing for school funding. This issue remains personal to Jessica now that she has a 4th grader and a kindergartner. Next fall 60 kindergartners are registered, resulting in 20 students per teacher. This Article will add an Educational Aid to each Kindergarten Classroom and an additional BCBA. Our current Behavioral Health Analyst is stretched between three schools and we need to ensure that all children receive help. The Article will also add a Vice Principal for the Middle School. There is currently no separate feeling of a middle school at Tahanto. We lose a lot of kids to other schools in the 9th grade; this would help to make the Tahanto community more cohesive. Jessica doesn't take budget increases lightly, but feels an increase is warranted in this case.

David Butler, said that he is disappointed that for the first time in his 30+ years on the Finance Committee the School Committee and Finance Committee are not presenting a unified budget. Dave said he wasn't disputing positions, but more so wanted to talk about budget mechanisms and overall budget impact. The recommended budget would increase by 15.7% and the School Committee's amendment would increase it by 18% - three

times the inflation rate. The Finance Committee has a duty to be fiscally responsible to all residents of the town. The School Committee shares the same responsibility.

At a group meeting in March, the School Committee presented two budgets to the Berlin and Boylston Finance Committees and Select Boards. One was a level services budget that you see here and one was a below level services budget including layoffs. Both the Finance Committees and the Boards of Selectmen felt it was important to avoid layoffs, so the level services budget was adopted. After that meeting the School Committee, rather than being appreciative of the town's reach to meet the higher budget amount, proceeded to add five full-time positions. The last minute 5-position add cannot be supported.

The School Committee's budget that is being presented relies heavily on one-time funds, comparable to tapping into your savings. Starting FY2025 this budget will put us several hundred thousand dollars in the red at Boylston Elementary School alone, necessitating a Proposition 2 ½ Override, which is not easy to pass. The Finance Committee recommends a 5.9% tax increase, almost 2% above where we'd like to be. The School Committee is recommending a 6.75% tax increase, which will only work for one year due to the use of reserve funds. We need to consider all townspeople, including seniors and those on fixed incomes. If voting yes to the amended school budget, don't complain about your tax bills next year.

Megan Grill stated that although the School Committee did vote to add five positions, they also voted to add more school choice slots and use \$160,000 of school choice and circuit breaker reserve funds to help fund these positions. Adding these positions is not something the School Committee took lightly.

Matthew Grill (Megan's husband), 27 Compass Circle, stated that while he and Megan never agree on anything, they do actually agree on this. The Town just voted to spend \$1,000,000 to keep the rural feel of the town by purchasing a parcel of land. How can we question spending \$100,000 on our children? UNESCO publishes global data used to inform global public policy. In first world countries, the student-teacher ratio is 14 to 1. In developing countries, the ratio is 20 to 1. Boylston is approaching being a developing country without adding these roles to kindergarten. 20 to 1 student-teacher ratios are too high. Matthew asked that the Town vote yes on this Article.

Gerry Quam, 3 Smallwood Circle, pointed out that the Town just voted, with no discussion, to spend \$150,000 on a truck for the Highway Department. He has seen other trucks and equipment purchased for similar prices throughout the years with no hesitation. Gerry said that it boggles his mind that we are arguing over \$100,000 for the education of our children. In closing, Gerry said show me a growing, vibrant town, with growing property values, and I will show you a well-supported school system. Gerry urged Town Meeting to support this Article.

Jennifer Warren-Dymont, 889 Main Street, doesn't doubt the need for these positions. She did, however, point out that reliance on one-time money is a slippery slope. Overrides are difficult to pass and moving forward with this amended budget will set us off in the red at the beginning of the next fiscal year. She believes the Finance Committee when they say we will be facing an override next year or in the very near future. We need to look at an overall comprehensive view of the budget; the whole town is starving, not just the schools.

Arielle Strzelewicz, 400 Linden Street, was previously a teacher and has an extensive background in education. A 20 to 1 student-teacher ratio would be crushing for kindergartners. It just isn't enough adults for all the students. At 20 to 1, a teacher can't take care of your children. An additional BCBA, who is someone who works with children who face higher difficulties, is also needed. Our children are still reeling from the effects of the pandemic and need support. Arielle urged voters to try to remember the last time they were alone with five, ten, or even twenty children. She said the answer for most people would be never. Arielle encouraged Town Meeting to vote for this budget amendment.

Jessica Degliaberti spoke again and acknowledged that rising taxes will be difficult for some people. She noted that some tax payers can qualify for exemptions, and tax work off programs are available in both Berlin and Boylston.

Moderator Kim Rozak said that the next VOTE is whether to amend the Finance Committee's MAIN MOTION with the MOTION made by Lori-Anne Hart of the School Committee.

A VOTE was taken and the MOTION to AMEND the MAIN MOTION passed.

Kim called for a VOTE on the School Committee's AMENDED MOTION. She instructed voters on how to tear their yellow ballot slips for voting. A second was made.

A paper ballot VOTE and count took place. The Article passed; 241 yes, 88 no.

Moderator Kim Rozak asked for a MOTION to adjourn. A MOTION was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn A. Porter
Boylston Town Clerk

**Annual Town Meeting
May 1st, 2023
Appropriations**

Article #	Total Appropriation	From Tax Levy	Source of Funds	Detail
Article #13 Repairs at Hillside Town Buildings	\$58,850.00		Available Funds	\$58,850.00
Article #14 Highway Dept. Pick-Up Truck	\$150,000.00		Available Funds	\$150,000.00
Article #15 Harrington Park PARC Grant Requirements	\$36,025.00		Available Funds	\$36,025.00
Article #16 Police Cruiser	\$65,000.00		Available Funds	\$65,000.00
Article #17 Town Library Project	\$86,915.79		Transferred from Unexpended Funds from the Highway Building Project	\$86,915.79
Article #18 FD Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus FEMA Fire Fighters Grant Matching Funds	\$9,575.00		Ambulance Receipts Reserved	\$9,575.00

**Annual Town Meeting
May 1st, 2023
Appropriations**

Article #	Total Appropriation	From Tax Levy	Source of Funds	Detail
Article 19 Ambulance Equipment	\$9,000.00		Ambulance Receipts Reserved	\$9,000.00
Article #20 Fire Truck Downpayment & Authorization of Lease Purchase Financing Agreement	\$300,000.00		Free Cash	\$300,000.00
Article #25 Land Purchase West Side of School Street (Map 23, Parcel 25)	\$1,050,000.00		Borrowing	\$1,050,000.00
Article #28 Town Budget	\$21,791,913.00	\$20,418,253.00	\$95,000.00 Transferred from Ambulance Receipts Reserved & Applied to FD Budget \$1,028,660.00 Transferred from Free Cash to Fund Capital School improvements at Boylston Elementary School \$250,000.00 Transferred from Free Cash to Reduce Tax Rate	\$21,791,913.00

Finance Committee

For the Fiscal Year ending in June 30, 2023 the town budget increased by 5.6% to \$19,093,416. The increase in the budget was due to a number of factors, including increases in pension and group health for town employees, the addition of 2 new police patrolmen, 2 EMT/Firefighters, and various increases across many of our departments. Increases in the school budget were primarily driven by mandated and unfunded special education costs and employee salary increases, which are the largest portion of the school budget.

During FY2023, the town captured \$801,628 in new growth tax revenue thanks to new construction, which helps to lower the tax rate. The additional revenues also help the town to budget additional money towards additional line items and meet the increases in the school budget.

The free cash amount for FY2023, which was available for spending on capital projects in FY2023, was \$1,316,223. During the annual town meeting in June 2023, the town voted to appropriate a significant amount of the available funds to, the radio project which will provide full town wide communications system for our public safety and government services departments, this was approved at the special town meeting in November 2022, the salary survey for town services positions, an update to the town's Master Plan and specifically funding for a study for a new Fire/Police/Senior Center building, repairs and upkeep of town owned properties, a roadside mower, additional paving funding, and a significant contribution to lower the tax rate.

Free cash comes from a variety of sources, among them unspent budget line items, excess income from excise taxes, higher than expected new growth, and the sale of town-owned land. For FY2023, a large portion of the free cash came from building permits primarily from large building projects on Route 140, unspent town budgets and an unexpected increase in income from excise taxes. Additionally, our new assessors have recovered funds previously unavailable to us. Boylston has been fortunate to have a relatively large free cash balance relative to the overall size of the budget. This free cash is available for spending on capital projects in the upcoming fiscal year and will be appropriated during the annual town meeting. However, due to the robust cost of vehicles and equipment for the fire, police, and highway departments, town building construction and repairs, and other one-time purchases, the free cash funds do not cover all of the towns needs each year.

The finance committee is committed to sound fiscal principles. Specifically, regarding free cash, the finance committee strongly advises against using free cash and stabilization funds for operating expenses. Free cash is a one-time infusion of cash and is only used for capital expenses. It cannot cover ongoing budget operating expenses, which arise every year, and which must be paid out of reliable cashflow.

The tax rate for calendar year 2023 was \$14.40, a decrease from calendar year 2022, when it was \$15.84. The tax rate is updated for property owners on a calendar year basis and not a fiscal year basis.

For FY2024, the current year, a budget passed reflecting a 15% increase overall for the town, that included a 22.1% increase for Boylston Elementary, and an 11.1% increase for Tahanto

Finance Committee

operating budgets. These budgets were passed against the recommendation of the finance committee that recommended 15.7 and 11.0% respectively. A concerted parent initiative garnered support for town meeting to vote for the School Committee's proposed budgets over the Finance Committee's recommended budget. The Finance Committee also approved capital requests for \$623,172 for Boylston Elementary and \$1,253,936 for Tahanto.

Even without the school increases, the finance committee presented a budget reflecting an 8.2% increase (total budget minus schools). The finance committee worked to limit budget increases. This increase represents higher Employee Benefits, some expense line increases, and modest increases across the board for salaries, as the town seeks to keep up with inflation in both salaries and expenses, and the salary ranges of employees in comparable towns.

Boylston is considered a wealthy town in the commonwealth, and therefore Boylston does not receive a significant amount of state funding. The advantage to this is that when the state legislature votes to reduce allocations to local budgets, Boylston is not as adversely affected as towns that receive significant state funding. The disadvantage is that Boylston doesn't receive much in state support towards its annual budget.

The finance committee works each year to balance the town's needs and resources and offer a budget that it feels is sustainable this year and the years ahead.

Finance Committee Meetings:

November 7, 2022 – All attended

March 6, 2023 – All attended except for Stephanie (with the School Committee)

March 20, 2023 – All attended except for Greg

The finance committee attended meetings with the school committee on 7-MAR-2023, and 19-SEP-2023 and the Board of Selectmen on 30-Jan-2023, 10-Apr-2023 and 1-May-2023.

Please contact the chairman or other members of the finance committee for in-depth questions about the town's budget. You can reach Howard Drobner at "howard.drobner@gmail.com".

Members Term Expirations:

- Eric Brose – 2024
- Greg Cusimano – 2024
- David Butler – 2025
- Steph Miczek – 2025
- Karen McGahie – 2026
- Howard Drobner – 2026

Board of Assessors

The Assessors Office is responsible for ensuring that all real and personal property in the Town of Boylston is assessed at fair and full cash value. We also administer tax exemptions, the property tax work-off program, and motor vehicle abatements.

The Board of Assessors is comprised of Van Baker, Chair, Tom Martiska, Vice Chair, and Rebecca Dono Healy, Member. David Manzello served as Principal Assessor for the year, and Jack Valleli served as the Administrative Assistant.

For Fiscal 2023, the period beginning 7/1/2022 and ending 6/30/2023, the tax rate fell \$1.44 to \$14.40 per thousand dollars of value. Fair market valuation for real and personal property in the Town increased by \$189,389,650.00.

For Fiscal 2024 (7/1/23 to 6/30/24), the tax rate continued to fall to \$13.81 per thousand dollars of assessed value for real and personal property. Fair market values increased \$125,173,560.00, reflecting market conditions in the Commonwealth.

<u>FY</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>TAX LEVY</u>
2024	\$1,280,269,265	\$13.81	\$17,680,518.56
2023	\$1,155,095,705	\$14.40	\$16,633,378.15
2022	\$965,706,055	\$15.84	\$16,296,783.92
2021	\$868,917,185	\$16.98	\$14,754,213.80
2020	\$837,658,560	\$16.54	\$13,854,872.58

Over the course of 2023, the Assessors held eleven regular meetings, which were attended by all members either personally or via teleconference.

The Assessors Office would like to thank Van Baker for his dedication to accurate assessment and his support of the office staff.

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

I. TAX RATE SUMMARY

la. Total amount to be raised (from page 2, IIe)	\$ 19,925,280.12
lb. Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from page 2, IIIe)	3,291,901.97
lc. Tax Levy (Ia minus Ib)	\$ 16,633,378.15
ld. Distribution of Tax Rates and levies	

CLASS	(b) Levy percentage (from LA5)	(c) Ic above times each percent in col (b)	(d) Valuation by class (from LA-5)	(e) Tax Rates (c) / (d) x 1000	(f) Levy by class (d) x (e) / 1000
Residential	83.1184	13,825,397.78	960,096,775.00	14.40	13,825,393.56
Net of Exempt					
Open Space	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commercial	10.2457	1,704,206.03	118,347,980.00	14.40	1,704,210.91
Net of Exempt					
Industrial	4.5966	764,569.86	53,095,200.00	14.40	764,570.88
SUBTOTAL	97.9607		1,131,539,955.00		16,294,175.35
Personal	2.0393	339,204.48	23,555,750.00	14.40	339,202.80
TOTAL	100.0000		1,155,095,705.00		16,633,378.15

MUST EQUAL 1C

Signatures

Assessors

Amy Evanowski, Administrator , Boylston , aevanowski@rrgsystems.com 508-869-6543 | 11/21/2022 4:12 PM

Comment:

Thomas Martiska, Assessor , Boylston , tmartiska@aol.com 508-869-6543 | 11/28/2022 8:14 PM

Comment:

Van Baker, Assessor , Boylston , vanbaker514@yahoo.com 508-869-6543 | 11/29/2022 5:13 AM

Comment:

Dawn A. Porter, Town Clerk , Boylston , dporter@boylston-ma.gov 508-869-2234 | 11/23/2022 11:01 AM

Comment:

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

Do Not Write Below This Line --- For Department of Revenue Use Only

Reviewed By: Amy Handfield

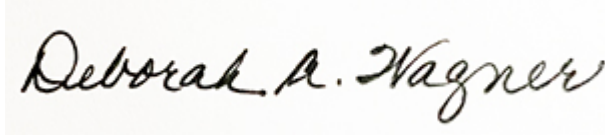
Date: 12/06/2022

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

Approved: Andrew Nelson

Director of Accounts: Deborah A. Wagner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah A. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

II. Amounts to be raised

Ila. Appropriations (col.(b) through col.(g) from page 4)		19,801,558.33
Ilb. Other amounts to be raised		
1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	0.00	
2. Debt and interest charges not included on page 4	0.00	
3. Final Awards	0.00	
4. Retained Earnings Deficit	0.00	
5. Total cherry sheet offsets (see cherry sheet 1-ER)	10,163.00	
6. Revenue deficits	0.00	
7. Offset receipts deficits Ch. 44, Sec. 53E	0.00	
8. CPA other unappropriated/unreserved	0.00	
9. Snow and ice deficit Ch. 44, Sec. 31D	0.00	
10. Other :	0.00	
TOTAL Ilb (Total lines 1 through 10)		10,163.00
Ilc. State and county cherry sheet charges (C.S. 1-EC)		55,631.00
Ild. Allowance for abatements and exemptions (overlay)		57,927.79
Ile. Total amount to be raised (Total Ila through Ild)		19,925,280.12

III. Estimated receipts and other revenue sources

IIIa. Estimated receipts - State		
1. Cherry sheet estimated receipts (C.S. 1-ER Total)	521,660.00	
2. Massachusetts school building authority payments	0.00	
TOTAL IIIa		521,660.00
IIIb. Estimated receipts - Local		
1. Local receipts not allocated (page 3, col (b) Line 24)	2,062,099.64	
2. Offset Receipts (Schedule A-1)	0.00	
3. Enterprise Funds (Schedule A-2)	0.00	
4. Community Preservation Funds (See Schedule A-4)	0.00	
TOTAL IIIb		2,062,099.64
IIIc. Revenue sources appropriated for particular purposes		
1. Free cash (page 4, col (c))	684,866.30	
2. Other available funds (page 4, col (d))	23,276.03	
TOTAL IIIc		708,142.33
IIId. Other revenue sources appropriated specifically to reduce the tax rate		
1a. Free cash..appropriated on or before June 30, 2022	0.00	
1b. Free cash..appropriated on or after July 1, 2022	0.00	

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

2.	Municipal light surplus	0.00	
3.	Other source :	0.00	
	TOTAL III d		<u>0.00</u>
III e.	Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (Total III a through III d)		<u>3,291,901.97</u>
IV. Summary of total amount to be raised and total receipts from all sources			
a.	Total amount to be raised (from II e)		<u>19,925,280.12</u>
b.	Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from III e)	<u>3,291,901.97</u>	
c.	Total real and personal property tax levy (from I c)	<u>16,633,378.15</u>	
d.	Total receipts from all sources (total IV b plus IV c)		<u>19,925,280.12</u>

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED *

	Receipt Type Description	(a) Actual Receipts Fiscal 2022	(b) Estimated Receipts Fiscal 2023	Percentage Change
==>	1. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	1,110,570.33	950,826.64	-14.38
	2. OTHER EXCISE			
==>	a.Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	b.Room	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	c.Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	d.Cannabis	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	3. PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON TAXES AND EXCISES	46,708.89	35,000.00	-25.07
==>	4. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	599,930.50	599,000.00	-0.16
	5. CHARGES FOR SERVICES - WATER	0.00	0.00	0.00
	6. CHARGES FOR SERVICES - SEWER	0.00	0.00	0.00
	7. CHARGES FOR SERVICES - HOSPITAL	0.00	0.00	0.00
	8. CHARGES FOR SERVICES - SOLID WASTE FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	9. OTHER CHARGES FOR SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	10. FEES	36,873.00	35,000.00	-5.08
	a.Cannabis Impact Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00
	b.Community Impact Fee Short Term Rentals	0.00	0.00	0.00
	11. RENTALS	46,980.72	45,000.00	-4.22
	12. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - SCHOOLS	0.00	0.00	0.00
	13. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - LIBRARIES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	14. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - CEMETERIES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	15. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - RECREATION	0.00	0.00	0.00
	16. OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE	0.00	0.00	0.00
	17. LICENSES AND PERMITS			
	a.Building Permits	2,065,701.00	100,000.00	-95.16
	b.Other licenses and permits	155,608.26	107,500.00	-30.92
	18. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	19. FINES AND FORFEITS	10,763.86	10,000.00	-7.10
==>	20. INVESTMENT INCOME	4,618.66	4,600.00	-0.40
==>	21. MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	22. MISCELLANEOUS RECURRING	283,447.34	175,173.00	-38.20
	23. MISCELLANEOUS NON-RECURRING	48,161.00	0.00	-100.00
	24. Totals	4,409,363.56	2,062,099.64	-53.23

Signatures

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

Accounting Officer

I hereby certify that the actual receipts as shown in column (a) are, to the best of my knowledge correct and complete, and I further certify that I have examined the entries made on page 4 of the above-indicated fiscal year tax rate recapitulation form by the City / Town / District Clerk and hereby acknowledge that such entries correctly reflect the appropriations made and the sources from which such appropriations are to be met.

[Ninotchka Rogers, Accountant , Boylston , nrogers@boylston-ma.gov 508-869-2093 | 11/18/2022 10:13 AM](mailto:nrogers@boylston-ma.gov)

Comment:

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

* Do not include receipts in columns (a) or (b) that were voted by the City / Town / District Council or Town Meeting as offset receipts on Schedule A-1, enterprise funds on Schedule A-2, or departmental revolving funds per Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2. The Recap Page 3 Support form must be submitted to support increases / decreases of estimated receipts to actual receipts.

==> The Recap Page 3 Support form must be submitted to support increases/ decreases of FY 2023 estimated receipts to FY 2022 estimated receipts to be used in calculating the Municipal Revenue Growth Factor (MRGF). The Recap Page 3 Support form must be submitted to list each receipt type included in rows 22 and 23, Miscellaneous Recurring and Non-Recurring.

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

APPROPRIATIONS										AUTHORIZATIONS	
City/Town Council or Town Meeting Dates	FY*	(a) Total Appropriations Of Each Meeting	(b) From Raise and Appropriate	(c) From Free Cash (See B-1)	(d) From Other Available Funds (See B-2)	(e) From Offset Receipts (See A-1)	(f) From Enterprise Funds (See A-2)	(g) From Community Preservation Funds (See A-4)	(h) *** Departmental Revolving Funds	MEMO ONLY	
										(i) Borrowing Authorization (Other)	
12/06/2021	2022	160,000.00	0.00	160,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12/06/2021	2022	1,716.30	0.00	1,716.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12/06/2021	2022	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	17,276.03	0.00	0.00	17,276.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	175,000.00	0.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	70,000.00	0.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00
05/02/2022	2022	55,000.00	0.00	55,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2022	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/2022	2023	19,093,416.00	19,093,416.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		19,801,558.33	19,093,416.00	684,866.30	23,276.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

* Enter the fiscal year to which the appropriation relates.

** Appropriations included in column (b) must not be reduced by local receipts or any other funding source.

Appropriations must be entered gross to avoid a duplication in the use of estimated or other sources of receipts.

*** Include only revolving funds pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2.

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2023

Signatures

Clerk

I hereby certify that the appropriations correctly reflect the votes taken by City / Town / District Council.

Dawn A. Porter, Town Clerk , Boylston , dporter@boylston-ma.gov 508-869-2234 | 11/23/2022 11:02 AM

Comment:

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

Tax Collector

July 1st, 2022 – June 30th, 2023

FY 2023 Real Estate:	
Commitments	16,322,221
Collections/Transfers	16,155,821
Abatements & Exemptions	192,404
Refunds	105,543
Tax Titles Remitted to Treasurer	8,384
BALANCE 6/30/23	71,156

FY 2022 Real Estate:	
Balance 07/01/2022	76,377
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	75,535
Abatements & Exemptions	0
Refunds	0
Tax Titles Remitted to Treasurer	843
BALANCE 6/30/23	0

FY 2023 Personal Property:	
Commitments	339,203
Collections/Transfers	337,347
Abatements	2,093
Refunds	1,173
BALANCE 6/30/23	935

FY 2022 Personal Property:	
Balance 07/01/2022	1,698
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	684
Abatements	1,014
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	0

FY 2023 Motor Vehicle:	
Commitments	1,087,414
Collections/Transfers	979,091
Abatements	21,698
Refunds	10,435
BALANCE 6/30/23	97,061

FY 2022 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	78,368
Commitments	131,396
Collections/Transfers	180,427
Abatements	17,686
Refunds	13,466
BALANCE 6/30/23	25,118

FY 2021 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	11,755
Commitments	-
Collections/Transfers	7,283
Abatements	942
Refunds	855
BALANCE 6/30/23	4,385

FY 2020 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	6,007
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	3,967
Abatements	77
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	1,963

FY 2019 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	2,515
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	836
Abatements	0
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	1,679

FY 2018 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	2,977
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	5
Abatements	0
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	2,972

Tax Collector

July 1st, 2022 – June 30th, 2023

FY 2017 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	2,815
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	0
Abatements	0
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	2,815

FY 2016 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	1,439
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	0
Abatements	0
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	1,439

FY 2015 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	1,772
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	155
Abatements	0
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	1,617

FY 2014 Motor Vehicle:	
Balance 07/01/2022	1,143
Commitments	0
Collections/Transfers	0
Abatements	1,143
Refunds	0
BALANCE 6/30/23	0

RECAPITULATION OF TAX REVENUE	
Balance Outstanding 7/1/2022	186,866
Commitments	17,880,234
Collections/Transfers	17,741,150
Abatements & Exemptions	237,057
Refunds	131,472
Tax Titles Remitted to Treasurer	9,226
BALANCE 6/30/2023	211,140
<i>Respectfully Submitted,</i>	
<i>Cheri Cox</i>	
<i>Town Treasurer/Tax Collector</i>	

Town of Boylston

Schedule of Cash and Investments

For the Year Ended June 30th, 2023

TOWN OF BOYLSTON			
SCHEDULE OF CASH AND INVESTMENTS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023			
			June 30, 2023
Bank and Investment Accounts			Balances
Cash and Equivalents:			
Cash on Hand			\$ 100.00
Clinton Savings Bank	Municipal Light	Checking	\$ 824,770.53
Clinton Savings Bank	Municipal Light	Depreciation	\$ 79,937.25
Unibank	Municipal Light	Checking	\$ 525,936.38
Unibank	Town	Money Market	\$ 180,258.04
Unibank	Town	Unipay Collections	\$ 3,309.05
Unibank	Town	Unipay Building	\$ 4,553.88
Unibank	Town	Unipay Clerk and Parks	\$ 2,898.47
Unibank	Town	Certificate of Deposit	\$ 1,017,257.36
Clinton Savings	Town	Depository	\$ 484,695.97
Clinton Savings Bank	Town	Arts Council	\$ 9,736.71
Clinton Savings Bank	Town	ARPA - CD	\$ 631,607.31
Clinton Savings Bank	Town	Escrow	\$ 15,670.40
Clinton Savings Bank	Town	Collector's Depository	\$ 24,682.10
Eastern Bank	Town	Money Market	\$ 2,360,451.61
Eastern Bank	Town	DPW & Library Proceed Balance	\$ 279,773.95
MMDT	Town	Cash Pool	\$ 3,082,572.33
Total Cash and Equivalents			\$ 9,528,211.34
Investments:			
Bartholomew - Commonwealth Financial Network	Town / Municipal Light		\$ 1,929,024.51
Bartholomew - Commonwealth Financial Network	OPEB		\$ 233,270.02
Total Investments			\$ 2,162,294.53
Total Cash and Investments			\$ 11,690,505.87
<i>Respectfully submitted:</i>			
 <i>Cheri Cox</i>			
<i>Town Treasurer / Tax Collector</i>			

Salaries of Town Employees

Light Department:

Barakian	Mark	\$152,194.60
Harmon	Kevin	\$122,695.87
Johnson	Eric	\$500.00
Johnson	Shane	\$124,382.13
Lacroix	Jenifer	\$48,977.00
Lucia	Michael	\$129,365.89
McQuade	John	\$1,000.00
Mead	Shawna	\$47,160.95
Mero	Steven	\$500.00
Miller	Sheila	\$500.00
Trudeau	Paul	\$86,710.87
		<u>\$713,987.31</u>

Highway Department:

Barber	Stuart	\$70,777.66
Bradford	Joshua	\$6,344.00
Burkhardt	Noah	\$5,324.00
Deal	James	\$72,070.49
MacConnell	Darrin	\$55,315.74
MacKenzie	Robb	\$2,525.00
Mero	Steven	\$99,886.02
Pupkar	Jill	\$47,075.60
Regnier	Walter	\$61,667.31
Schmidlein	Nathan	\$57,022.65
Sears	Aiden	\$4,592.00
Stowe	Richard	\$3,437.50
		<u>\$486,037.97</u>

Library:

Ambrosino	Leah	\$1,284.38
Bowker	Allyson	\$29,701.56
Chakmakian	Emily	\$3,558.64
Francis	Deborah	\$5,572.98
Heske	Carly	\$695.52
Hout	Erica	\$72,656.84
Lyerly	Maggie	\$2,593.58
Nix	Alexi	\$50,031.40
Stretton	Larissa	\$38,464.75
Uva	Isabella	\$3,671.18
		<u>\$208,230.83</u>

Fire/Ambulance

Bradford	Jason	\$74,765.96
Buddenhagen	Daniel	\$56,411.53
Buddenhagen	Michael	\$466.40
Carlson	Laura	\$3,240.87
Chiasson	Nicole	\$62,424.47
Ciampaglia	Timothy	\$18,547.85
Colleton	Ryan	\$360.32
Conway	Tabitha	\$2,111.46
Ferreira	Guinevere	\$715.02
Fisher	Corey	\$325.08
Flanagan	Joseph	\$123,327.58
Hill	Charles	\$2,077.88
Loganathan	Anusha	\$1,088.40
MacKenzie	Donald	\$85,057.28
Murray	Joseph	\$969.60
Nash	Rebecca	\$3,841.92
O'Connell	Robert	\$355.04
Osterberg	Paul	\$3,364.00
O'Sullivan	Michael	\$9,896.17
Phelan	Patrick	\$1,256.12
Phipps	John	\$1,442.92
Portis	Alan	\$84.56
Probst	Elise	\$2,909.65
Puri	Aivah	\$1,643.84
Ronn	Mason	\$90.70
Ronn	Matthew	\$5,102.55
Schloerb	Ryan	\$65,556.49
Vogt	Christian	\$186.80
Weir	William	\$61,315.59
Wilhide	Kelly	\$145.12
Young	Roger	\$504.01
Zhou	Kevin	\$145.12
		<u>\$589,730.30</u>

Fire Detail:

Bradford,	Jason	\$336.00
Conway	Tabitha	\$189.00
Schloerb	Ryan	\$1,659.00
Weir	William	\$1,300.72
		<u>\$3,484.72</u>

Salaries of Town Employees

Town Clerk:

Porter	Dawn	\$45,959.30
Walker	Rebecca	\$14,402.00
		<u>\$60,361.30</u>

Voter Registrars:

Aspero	Jeanne	\$155.00
Brissette	Francis	\$161.50
Cass	Carolyn	\$150.00
Fletcher	Beverly	\$135.00
Groleau	Mary	\$135.00
Johnson	Bonnie	\$832.00
LaChance	Joanne	\$80.75
Porter	Dawn	\$323.00
Sears	Cynthia	\$323.00
Villani	Gail	\$60.00
Wheeler	Wendy	\$60.00
		<u>\$2,415.25</u>

Selectmen and General Administration:

Bourassa	Robert	\$89,902.96
Dell'Aquila	Paul	\$40,192.35
Kennedy	Alison	\$51,953.44
Kneeland	Scott	\$2,160.00
Mecum	Matthew	\$1,461.75
Ridinger	Seth	\$1,606.25
Steward	April	\$101,580.92
Underwood	James	\$1,610.50
Valleli	Jacob	\$14,065.34
Vander Baan	Jeffrey	\$3,486.60
		<u>\$308,020.11</u>

Assessors:

Baker	Van	\$1,519.50
Healy	Rebecca	\$1,510.32
Martiska	Thomas	\$1,212.82
Valleli	Jacob	\$25,286.40
		<u>\$29,529.04</u>

Board of Health/Conservation:

Barrette	Sarah	\$296.50
Costello	Dennis	\$50,250.40
Muckenstrom	Ann Marie	\$18,439.50
Rich	Melanie	\$51,527.44
Thibeault	Robert	\$298.50
		<u>\$120,812.34</u>

Cemetery:

Mero	Steven	\$845.00
Parker	Donald	\$225.33
Seed	Barbara	\$225.33
		<u>\$1,295.66</u>

Planning:

Gardner	Nina	\$9,634.56
Johnson	Mark	\$228.50
		<u>\$9,863.06</u>

Tree Warden:

Mero	Steven	\$1,485.00
		<u>\$1,485.00</u>

Parks & Recreation

Frechette	Pamela	\$27,698.08
		<u>\$27,698.08</u>

Tax Collector/ Treasurer:

Buckley	Rosemary	\$37,720.73
Cox	Cheri	\$84,866.08
		<u>\$122,586.81</u>

Accountant

Rogers	Ninotchka	\$29,050.67
		<u>\$29,050.67</u>

Council on Aging

Bradford	Jason	\$803.06
Gonyea	Mark	\$5,608.54
Hernandez	Jessica	\$3,276.86
LoConte	Donna	\$2,985.00
Lohnes	Kathleen	\$36,449.30
Lupien	Bruce	\$1,500.00
Macumber	Robert	\$10,275.48
		<u>\$60,898.24</u>

Inspectors

Gardner	Nina	\$28,325.92
Gaucher	Brian	\$1,825.67
Healy	John	\$669.50
Johnson	Eric	\$21,753.60
McQuade	John	\$19,751.82
O'Sullivan	Michael	\$689.58
Salmon	James	\$400.00
Zahariadis	Anastasios	\$62,659.16
		<u>\$136,075.25</u>

Salaries of Town Employees

Police:

Annunziata	John	\$128,182.75
Barbato	Robert	\$95,326.34
Bissonnette	Christine	\$50,839.14
Johnson	Kenneth	\$102,146.45
Kelly	Ryan	\$39,313.02
Marderosian	Matthew	\$58,092.92
McNutt	David	\$86,395.43
Monaghan	Kevin	\$97,157.22
Parker	Russell	\$57,242.72
Piche	Jared	\$77,665.12
Rivera	Samuel	\$89,868.78
Ryel	Justin	\$34,334.29
Ryel	Matthew	\$119,835.14
Shepard	Mark	\$128,827.10
Thomasian	Cody	\$137,012.25
Thomas	Robert	\$154,070.28

\$1,456,308.95

Police Detail:

Annunziata	John	\$3,600.00
Barbato	Robert	\$456.00
Johnson	Kenneth	\$49,449.00
Kelly	Ryan	\$1,751.00
Marderosian	Matthew	\$2,475.00
McNutt	David	\$16,727.00
Monaghan	Kevin	\$1,784.00
Piche	Jared	\$220.00
Rivera	Samuel	\$18,746.00
Ryel	Justin	\$14,639.00
Ryel	Matthew	\$6,027.00
Shepard	Mark	\$5,383.00
Thomasian	Cody	\$715.00
Thomas	Robert	\$1,972.00

\$123,944.00

Dispatch:

Colomey	Kevin	\$1,244.48
Crosbie	Sheila	\$1,840.00
Purcell	Lynn	\$79,783.06
Rudge	Pamela	\$98,312.56
Schiavone	Jennefer	\$83,657.45
White	Bonnie	\$74,239.86

\$339,077.41

GRAND TOTAL	\$4,830,892.30
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Annual Report of the Town Accountant for the Year Ending June 30th, 2023

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Combined Balance Sheet – All Fund Types

As of June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit A

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	5,470,536.95	1,613,922.78	279,364.29	1,432,911.77		266,315.77		9,063,051.56
Investments		603,166.28		225,099.02		1,799,189.01		2,627,454.31
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	935.10							935.10
Real estate taxes	71,156.08							71,156.08
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(141,811.85)							(141,811.85)
Tax liens	85,830.69							85,830.69
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise	139,048.67							139,048.67
Other excises								0.00
User fees								0.00
Utility liens added to taxes				3,079.85				3,079.85
Departmental		290,307.03				14,405.00		304,712.03
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments								0.00
Other receivables								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	123,192.15							123,192.15
Prepays								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Working deposit								0.00
Inventory								0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							3,925,000.00	3,925,000.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets	5,748,887.79	2,507,396.09	279,364.29	1,661,090.64	0.00	2,079,909.78	3,925,000.00	16,201,648.59

Combined Balance Sheet – All Fund Types

As of June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit A

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</u>								
Liabilities:								
Warrants payable	205,428.46	41,401.65		322,915.73		2,492.00		572,237.84
Accounts payable								0.00
Accrued payroll	208,958.36	3,300.80		27,694.00				239,953.16
Withholdings	2,344.66							2,344.66
Accrued claims payable								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Due to other governments								0.00
Other liabilities								0.00
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	(69,720.67)							(69,720.67)
Tax liens	85,830.69							85,830.69
Deferred taxes								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	123,192.15							123,192.15
Motor vehicle excise	139,048.67							139,048.67
Other excises								0.00
User fees								0.00
Utility liens added to taxes				12,040.80				12,040.80
Departmental		290,307.03				14,405.00		304,712.03
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments								0.00
Other receivables								0.00
Deposits receivable				92,921.63				92,921.63
Prepaid taxes/fees								0.00
Tailings	486.08			2,080.86				2,566.94
IBNR								0.00
Agency Funds						7,351.79		7,351.79
Notes payable								0.00
Bonds payable							3,925,000.00	3,925,000.00
Vacation and sick leave liability								0.00
Total Liabilities	695,568.40	335,009.48	0.00	457,653.02	0.00	24,248.79	3,925,000.00	5,437,479.69

Combined Balance Sheet – All Fund Types

As of June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit A

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	2,637.49							2,637.49
Reserved for expenditures	1,278,660.00							1,278,660.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	2,273,191.98							2,273,191.98
Reserved for petty cash								0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit								0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								0.00
Reserved for debt service	1,010.75							1,010.75
Reserved for premiums								0.00
Reserved for working deposit								0.00
Undesignated fund balance	1,497,819.17	2,172,386.61	279,364.29	1,203,437.62		2,055,660.99		7,208,668.68
Unreserved retained earnings								0.00
Investment in capital assets								0.00
Total Fund Equity	5,053,319.39	2,172,386.61	279,364.29	1,203,437.62	0.00	2,055,660.99	0.00	10,764,168.90
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	5,748,887.79	2,507,396.09	279,364.29	1,661,090.64	0.00	2,079,909.78	3,925,000.00	16,201,648.59

General Fund Revenue

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 – Exhibit B

Description	2023 Amount
Taxes	
Personal Property	336,859
Real Estate	16,155,310
Excise	1,147,268
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	599,931
Total Taxes (Net of Refunds)	18,239,368
Licenses, Fines, Permits and Fees	
Fees-Treasurer/Collector	275
Fees-Town Clerk	14,311
Fees-Municipal Liens	3,400
Fees-Rental	45,230
Fees-Fire	11,968
Fees-Assessors	50
Fees-Cable TV	493
Fees-Planning	35
Selectboard Licenses	15,037
Board of Health Permits & Fees	27,400
Building Permits	385,132
Gun Permits	2,825
Plumbing Permits	29,945
Electrical Permits	66,263
Fire Permits	790
Gas Permits	13,972
Court Fines	7,668
Police Off-Duty Surcharge	7,146
Total Licenses, Fines, Permits and Fees	631,940
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	
Penalties and Interest-Property Taxes	25,839
Penalties and Interest-Tax Liens	2,244
Penalties and Interest-Excise Taxes	23,682
Total Interest on Penalties and Taxes	51,765
State Revenue	520,980
Earnings On Investments	131,137
Other	
Other Reimbursements	266,394
Sale of Inventory	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	120,491
Total Other	386,885
Transfers from Other Funds	114,575
Total Revenue	20,076,650

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING NOTICES	1,900.00	864.93	2,764.93	2,764.93	-
	1,900.00	864.93	2,764.93	2,764.93	-
SELECTMEN SALARY	4,611.00	248.00	4,859.00	4,859.00	-
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARY	100,151.00		100,151.00	100,150.92	0.08
HR ADMIN	18,642.00	(7,139.20)	11,502.80	11,502.80	-
TOWN PLANNER	41,782.00	(24,165.65)	17,616.35	17,616.35	-
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	49,216.00	(3,463.15)	45,752.85	43,426.24	2,326.61
TOWN AUDIT	19,500.00		19,500.00	19,000.00	500.00
SELECTMEN GENERAL EXPENSES	27,865.00	(4,474.93)	23,390.07	20,716.26	2,673.81
	261,767.00	(38,994.93)	222,772.07	217,271.57	5,500.50
FINANCE COMMITTEE EXPENSES	400.00	-	400.00	163.00	237.00
	400.00	-	400.00	163.00	237.00
RESERVE FUND	100,000.00	(99,562.00)	438.00	-	438.00
	100,000.00	(99,562.00)	438.00	-	438.00
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SERVICES	39,931.00	-	39,931.00	27,956.04	11,974.96
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	12,723.00	-	12,723.00	9,818.00	2,905.00
	52,654.00	-	52,654.00	37,774.04	14,879.96

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
ASSESSORS SALARIES	4,181.00	-	4,181.00	4,180.00	1.00
ASSESSORS CLERICAL WAGES	-	-	-	-	-
ASSESSORS CLERK WAGES	29,737.00	-	29,737.00	26,803.50	2,933.50
ASSESSORS APPRAISAL EXPENSE	8,500.00	-	8,500.00	-	8,500.00
ASSESSORS EXPENSES	103,421.00	-	103,421.00	94,822.45	8,598.55
	145,839.00	-	145,839.00	125,805.95	20,033.05
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TREASURER SALARY	83,642.00	-	83,642.00	83,642.00	-
TREASURER CLERICAL WAGES	37,092.00	-	37,092.00	36,462.92	629.08
TREASURER EXPENSES	49,016.00	-	49,016.00	44,586.80	4,429.20
	169,750.00	-	169,750.00	164,691.72	5,058.28
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TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES	130,000.00	135,911.09	265,911.09	265,911.09	-
	130,000.00	135,911.09	265,911.09	265,911.09	-
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TAX TITLE EXPENSE	10,050.00	-	10,050.00	3,886.64	6,163.36
	10,050.00	-	10,050.00	3,886.64	6,163.36
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TOWN CLERK SALARY	44,551.00	-	44,551.00	44,550.87	0.13
TOWN CLERK CLERICAL	15,177.00	-	15,177.00	14,680.40	496.60
TOWN CLERK EXPENSES	6,720.00	-	6,720.00	5,617.20	1,102.80
	66,448.00	-	66,448.00	64,848.47	1,599.53
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Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
ELECTION/REG SALARIES	8,022.00	97.89	8,119.89	8,119.89	-
ELECTION/REG EXPENSES	8,089.00	548.02	8,637.02	8,637.02	-
	16,111.00	645.91	16,756.91	16,756.91	-
CONSERVATION SALARY	25,678.00	-	25,678.00	24,165.12	1,512.88
CONSERVATION EXPENSES	750.00	-	750.00	530.47	219.53
STORM WATER MGMT EXPENSE	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	-
	51,428.00	-	51,428.00	49,695.59	1,732.41
EARTH REMOVAL EXPENSE	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
PLANNING BOARD MEMBER SALARIES	652.00	-	652.00	-	652.00
PLANNING BOARD OFFICIAL CLERK	70.00	-	70.00	-	70.00
PLANNING BG ADMIN ASST WAGES	10,137.00	38.36	10,175.36	10,175.36	-
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	2,050.00	-	2,050.00	1,127.11	922.89
	12,909.00	38.36	12,947.36	11,302.47	1,644.89
MUNICIPAL OFFICE EXPENSE	48,540.00	11,299.69	59,839.69	59,839.69	-
	48,540.00	11,299.69	59,839.69	59,839.69	-
TOWN REPORTS	2,400.00	-	2,400.00	1,000.00	1,400.00
	2,400.00	-	2,400.00	1,000.00	1,400.00
TOWN HOUSE EXPENSE	14,650.00	-	14,650.00	14,346.06	303.94
	14,650.00	-	14,650.00	14,346.06	303.94

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
TOWN GARAGE EXPENSES	25,595.00	3,712.70	29,307.70	29,307.70	-
	25,595.00	3,712.70	29,307.70	29,307.70	-
POLICE SALARIES & WAGES	1,306,055.00	(171,774.48)	1,134,280.52	1,129,662.58	4,617.94
POLICE OVERTIME	60,000.00	98,523.76	158,523.76	158,523.76	-
POLICE EXPENSES	215,407.00	-	215,407.00	212,570.89	2,836.11
	1,581,462.00	(73,250.72)	1,508,211.28	1,500,757.23	7,454.05
FIRE SALARIES & WAGES	516,446.00	4,401.49	520,847.49	520,847.49	-
FIRE OVERTIME	14,200.00	28,212.09	42,412.09	42,412.09	-
FIRE EXPENSES	78,380.00	8,544.78	86,924.78	86,924.78	-
	609,026.00	41,158.36	650,184.36	650,184.36	-
DISPATCH SALARIES & WAGES	269,236.00	(33,736.31)	235,499.69	235,499.69	-
DISPATCH OVERTIME	12,859.00	61,078.04	73,937.04	73,937.04	-
DISPATCH EXPENSES	17,974.00	-	17,974.00	17,171.80	802.20
	300,069.00	27,341.73	327,410.73	326,608.53	802.20
BUILDING INSPECTOR SALARY	61,682.00	-	61,682.00	61,682.13	(0.13)
BUILDING INSPECTOR CLERICAL WAGES	28,335.00	-	28,335.00	26,126.72	2,208.28
BUILDING INSPECTOR EXPENSES	10,250.00	-	10,250.00	7,957.78	2,292.22
	100,267.00	-	100,267.00	95,766.63	4,500.37
GAS INSPECTOR WAGES	7,691.00	-	7,691.00	7,690.96	0.04
GAS INSPECTOR EXPENSES	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	398.36	701.64
	8,791.00	-	8,791.00	8,089.32	701.68

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
PLUMBING INSPECTOR SALARY	15,540.00	-	15,540.00	15,540.04	(0.04)
	15,540.00	-	15,540.00	15,540.04	(0.04)
WIRING INSPECTOR SALARY	20,799.00	-	20,799.00	20,799.04	(0.04)
WIRING INSPECTOR EXPENSES	1,250.00	-	1,250.00	690.09	559.91
	22,049.00	-	22,049.00	21,489.13	559.87
DOG OFFICER SALARY	2,752.00	-	2,752.00	917.32	1,834.68
DOG OFFICER EXPENSES	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	-	1,100.00
	3,852.00	-	3,852.00	917.32	2,934.68
PARKING CLERK SALARY	260.00	-	260.00	260.00	-
	260.00	-	260.00	260.00	-
TREE WARDEN SALARY	1,485.00	-	1,485.00	-	1,485.00
TREE WARDEN EXPENSES	37,500.00	-	37,500.00	37,394.36	105.64
	38,985.00	-	38,985.00	37,394.36	1,590.64
SCHOOL DIST ASSESSMENT	9,677,442.00	-	9,677,442.00	9,677,442.00	-
SCHOOL CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	1,100,559.00	-	1,100,559.00	1,100,559.00	-
	10,778,001.00	-	10,778,001.00	10,778,001.00	-
VOCATIONAL TUITION	440,977.00	(52,171.72)	388,805.28	388,805.28	-
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION	126,048.00	-	126,048.00	72,949.09	53,098.91
	567,025.00	(52,171.72)	514,853.28	461,754.37	53,098.91

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
HIGHWAY SALARIES & WAGES	447,968.00	3,791.84	451,759.84	451,759.84	-
HIGHWAY EXPENSES	380,850.00	65,485.00	446,335.00	444,512.75	1,822.25
HIGHWAY BUILDING EXPENSES	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	25,886.31	4,113.69
	858,818.00	69,276.84	928,094.84	922,158.90	5,935.94
SNOW & ICE OVERTIME	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	29,876.79	123.21
SNOW & ICE REMOVAL EXPENSES	202,000.00	91,964.41	293,964.41	293,964.41	-
	232,000.00	91,964.41	323,964.41	323,841.20	123.21
STREET LIGHTS	8,600.00	746.05	9,346.05	9,346.05	-
	8,600.00	746.05	9,346.05	9,346.05	-
CEMETERY SALARIES & WAGES	676.00	-	676.00	450.66	225.34
CEMETERY EXPENSES	4,200.00	-	4,200.00	4,194.28	5.72
	4,876.00	-	4,876.00	4,644.94	231.06
BOH SALARIES	821.00	-	821.00	586.00	235.00
BOH CLERICAL WAGES	23,513.00	328.48	23,841.48	23,841.48	-
VITAL STATISTIC WAGES	200.00	-	200.00	200.00	-
ANIMAL INSPECTOR WAGES	1,854.00	-	1,854.00	618.00	1,236.00
SANITATION INSPECTOR SALARY	50,964.00	-	50,964.00	48,736.48	2,227.52
BOH EXPENSES	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	2,662.53	2,337.47
BOH SPECIAL PROJECTS	3,500.00	-	3,500.00	3,167.51	332.49
	85,852.00	328.48	86,180.48	79,812.00	6,368.48

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
TRI TOWN HAZARDOUS WASTE	3,060.00	77.00	3,137.00	3,136.77	0.23
	3,060.00	77.00	3,137.00	3,136.77	0.23
NURSE SALARY	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	11,387.50	3,612.50
	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	11,387.50	3,612.50
COA COORDINATOR SALARY	70,010.00	-	70,010.00	61,780.25	8,229.75
COA EXPENSES	6,135.00	-	6,135.00	6,388.53	(253.53)
COA VAN EXPENSES	7,000.00	-	7,000.00	5,830.71	1,169.29
	83,145.00	-	83,145.00	73,999.49	9,145.51
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	254.00	-	254.00	-	254.00
VETERANS BENEFITS	20,000.00	(8,695.15)	11,304.85	-	11,304.85
VETERANS EXPENSES	315.00	-	315.00	-	315.00
	20,569.00	(8,695.15)	11,873.85	-	11,873.85
LIBRARY SALARY & WAGES	204,785.00	-	204,785.00	203,031.08	1,753.92
LIBRARY EXPENSES	81,595.00	3,610.00	85,205.00	85,060.91	144.09
	286,380.00	3,610.00	289,990.00	288,091.99	1,898.01
MEMORIAL DAY	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	3,933.34	66.66
	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	3,933.34	66.66
RECREATION SALARY	27,040.00	-	27,040.00	26,729.95	310.05
RECREATION EQUIP AND PROGRAM EXPENSES	8,509.00	-	8,509.00	7,466.91	1,042.09
	35,549.00	-	35,549.00	34,196.86	1,352.14

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

HISTORICAL BUILDING MAINT	7,000.00	-	7,000.00	5,499.08	1,500.92
HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	3,388.92	1,611.08
HISTORICAL COMM PROJECT EXP	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	494.86	705.14
	13,200.00	-	13,200.00	9,382.86	3,817.14
DEBT PRINCIPAL	260,000.00	-	260,000.00	260,000.00	-
	260,000.00	-	260,000.00	260,000.00	-
DEBT INTEREST	116,525.00	-	116,525.00	116,525.00	-
	116,525.00	-	116,525.00	116,525.00	-
OPEB	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	-
COUNTY RETIREMENT	770,858.00	-	770,858.00	770,858.00	-
	770,858.00	-	770,858.00	770,858.00	-
UNEMPLOYMENT COMP	12,500.00	(10,000.00)	2,500.00	713.66	1,786.34
	12,500.00	(10,000.00)	2,500.00	713.66	1,786.34
HEALTH INSURANCE	825,000.00	(104,301.03)	720,698.97	655,379.10	65,319.87
DENTAL INSURANCE	39,996.00	-	39,996.00	33,173.25	6,822.75
LIFE INSURANCE	3,719.00	-	3,719.00	3,230.84	488.16
	868,715.00	(104,301.03)	764,413.97	691,783.19	72,630.78
MEDICARE INSURANCE	63,741.00	-	63,741.00	48,416.85	15,324.15
	63,741.00	-	63,741.00	48,416.85	15,324.15
LONGEVITY BONUS	6,800.00	-	6,800.00	6,750.00	50.00
EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
	7,300.00	-	7,300.00	6,750.00	550.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	180,000.00	-	180,000.00	178,959.05	1,040.95
	180,000.00	-	180,000.00	178,959.05	1,040.95

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
ARTICLES					
ART#17 6/21 FLAGG ESTATE RENOVATION	78,953.69	-	78,953.69	966.08	77,987.61
ATM#15 5/23 CAMP HARRINGTON PHASE II	-	36,025.00	36,025.00	35,290.00	735.00
STM#1 12/21 CAMP HARRINGTON	284.76	-	284.76	-	284.76
STM#5 12/21 POLICE CRUISER	13,709.00	-	13,709.00	13,141.10	567.90
ART#13 5/22 SALARY COMP STUDY	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
ART#22 2019 ATM ASSESSOR SOFTWARE UPGRADE	537.50	-	537.50	-	537.50
ART#21 6/21 RECORDS MGT SYSTEM	23,298.72	-	23,298.72	400.00	22,898.72
ART#22 6/20 MASTER PLAN UPDATE	22,362.50	-	22,362.50	21,300.00	1,062.50
ART#18 6/21 MASTER PLAN UPDATE	21,300.00	-	21,300.00	-	21,300.00
ART#22 6/21 TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS	17,910.78	-	17,910.78	1,726.73	16,184.05
ART#15 5/22 TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	9,660.00	10,340.00
ART#17 5/22 TOWN HALL HEAT PUMP	14,606.03	-	14,606.03	-	14,606.03
ART#19 5/1/17 HILLSIDE IT	2,674.81	-	2,674.81	-	2,674.81
ART#21 5/7/18 - HILLSIDE IT	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	-	20,000.00
ART#13 5/23 - HILLSIDE REPAIRS	-	58,850.00	58,850.00	-	58,850.00
ART#23 5/7/18 - TOWNHOUSE RENOVATIONS	16,808.66	-	16,808.66	-	16,808.66
ART#14 5/22 FEASIBILITY STUDY PSB	75,000.00	-	75,000.00	71,251.00	3,749.00
ART#1 12/22 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	1,300,000.00	-	1,300,000.00	9,562.52	1,290,437.48
ART#16 6/21 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	95,170.00	-	95,170.00	95,170.00	-
ART#21 5/22 POLICE IT REPLACEMENT	47,786.00	-	47,786.00	33,371.07	14,414.93
ART#22 5/22 POLICE FIREARMS REPLACEMENT	9,093.00	-	9,093.00	5,023.00	4,070.00
ART#22 5/22 POLICE FURNITURE REPLACEMENT	28,000.00	-	28,000.00	21,142.88	6,857.12

Schedule of Appropriations and Expenditures – General Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit C

Account	Budget	Transfers	2023 Adjusted Budget	2023 Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
ARTICLES					
ART#16 5/23 POLICE CRUISER	-	65,000.00	65,000.00	-	65,000.00
ART#16 6/20 ATM - GRANT MATCH	9,486.00	-	9,486.00	9,100.00	386.00
ART#24 5/22 AMBULANCE TIRES	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	5,156.00	844.00
ART#18 5/23 ATM - FEMA GRANT MATCH	-	9,575.00	9,575.00	-	9,575.00
ART#19 5/23 ATM - AMBULANCE SUPPLIES	-	9,000.00	9,000.00	-	9,000.00
ART#20 5/23 ATM - FIRE ENGINE DOWN PAYMENT	-	300,000.00	300,000.00	-	300,000.00
STM#3 12/21 AMBULANCE REPAIRS	11,000.00	-	11,000.00	10,459.94	540.06
ART#4 11/18 STM STRYKER STRETCHERS	5,028.53	-	5,028.53	3,215.14	1,813.39
ART#16 2019 ATM - GRANT MATCH	1,294.01	-	1,294.01	-	1,294.01
ART#4 11/6/17 STM FIRE TURNOUT GEAR	635.00	-	635.00	-	635.00
ART#20 6/20 ATM - DISPATCH SOFTWARE	31,285.74	-	31,285.74	30,082.01	1,203.73
ART#30 5/1/17 - BUILDING DEPT INSP/CLERICAL	111.68	-	111.68	111.68	-
ART#19 6/21 ATM - DPW DUMP TRUCK	12,712.08	-	12,712.08	12,586.79	125.29
ART#20 6/21 - ZERO TURN MOWER	3,858.56	-	3,858.56	-	3,858.56
ART#18 5/22 ROADSIDE MOWER	175,000.00	-	175,000.00	147,732.20	27,267.80
ART#19 5/22 ROADWAY PAVING	70,000.00	-	70,000.00	70,000.00	-
ART#14 5/23 ATM - DPW TRUCK	-	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	150,000.00
ART#40 5/1/17 - COMPASS PT BOND	30,283.07	-	30,283.07	-	30,283.07
ART #21 5/5/08 LANDFILL MONITORING/ENGINEERING	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	-	50,000.00
ART#24 6/21 ATM - HISTORICAL BUILDING RENOVATION	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00
	2,269,190.12	628,450.00	2,897,640.12	624,448.14	2,273,191.98

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
Special Revenue:					
Grants, Revolving and Gifts					
STATE AID HIGHWAY	0.00	337,360.95	(337,360.95)	-	-
CARES ACT	111,064.27	3,391.57	(97,144.64)	(17,311.20)	-
COVID-19 FEMA GRANT	(15,675.95)	-	-	15,675.95	-
COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC GRANT	(20,588.26)	-	-	-	(20,588.26)
ARPA FEDERAL GRANT	626,644.97	708,913.34	(703,951.00)	-	631,607.31
HOUSING CHOICE GRANT	13,300.00	-	-	-	13,300.00
CONS & REC 2012 VFA GRANT	2,732.63	-	-	-	2,732.63
EMERG MGMT PERF. GRANT	(3,776.87)	-	-	-	(3,776.87)
ROUTE 140 EOED GT	215.46	-	-	-	215.46
EXTENDED POLLING HOURS	1,547.12	4,311.36	-	-	5,858.48
MVP GRANT	(407.80)	-	-	407.80	-
POLICE TASK FORCE GRANT	-	199.16	(593.94)	-	(394.78)
911 SUPPORT AND INCENTIVE GT	746.30	1,320.00	(19,890.29)	-	(17,823.99)
JUVENILE GRANT	356.86	-	-	-	356.86
BRIDGE ACADEMY GRANT	-	3,000.00	(6,000.00)	-	(3,000.00)
DFS EQUIPMENT	-	10,352.00	(22,850.00)	-	(12,498.00)
FIRE SAFE GRANT	7,364.05	4,658.00	(4,239.61)	-	7,782.44
FIRE EQUIPMENT GRANT	199.33	-	(1,724.62)	1,525.29	-
FIRE FEMA GRANT	(2,290.51)	-	-	-	(2,290.51)
POLICE STATE 911 GRANT	6,311.56	1,390.00	(6,025.42)	-	1,676.14
C of M URBAN FORESTRY GRANT	437.00	-	-	-	437.00
PUBLIC HEALTH GRANTS	2,913.30	-	-	-	2,913.30
BOH FLU GRANT	2,843.60	-	-	-	2,843.60

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
Special Revenue:					
Grants, Revolving and Gifts					
COA FORMULA GRANT	848.02	15,012.00	(9,749.45)	-	6,110.57
LIBRARY GRANT	31,819.70	29,818.86	(9,180.93)	-	52,457.63
CULTURAL COUNCIL	5,883.36	5,606.71	(6,230.00)	-	5,260.07
AMBULANCE FEES	600,178.75	216,797.60	(114,575.00)	-	702,401.35
RIDESHARE FUND	1,285.80	621.20	-	-	1,907.00
COMMERCIAL INSPECTION REVOLVING	4,390.00	-	-	-	4,390.00
HILLSIDE REVOLVING	184,941.89	111,840.04	(228,974.66)	-	67,807.27
CHRISTMAS TREE GIFTS	353.56	-	-	-	353.56
CONSERVATION REVOLVING	2,826.91	597.34	(321.60)	-	3,102.65
WETLANDS PROTECTION	54,847.89	2,910.02	(2,083.87)	-	55,674.04
PLANNING BOARD REVOLVING	35,451.31	11,125.00	(1,881.72)	-	44,694.59
INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENTS	31,949.46	385.00	(1,694.16)	-	30,640.30
SALE OF TOWN BUILDING	23,400.80	500.00	-	-	23,900.80
RADIO TOWER GIFT	-	5,250.00	-	-	5,250.00
POLICE GIFTS	1,842.08	5,450.00	(4,990.54)	-	2,301.54
DARE GIFTS	1,935.36	-	-	-	1,935.36
LAW ENFORCEMENT DRUG ACCT	-	2,539.00	-	-	2,539.00
CANINE GIFTS	214.80	-	-	-	214.80
RTE 140/SCHOOL ST IMPROVEMENTS	48,000.00	-	-	-	48,000.00
CEMETERY REVOLVING	70,772.92	11,690.00	(13,781.36)	-	68,681.56
SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS	95,825.74	6,290.00	-	-	102,115.74
CEMETERY GIFT	2,577.08	5,750.00	-	-	8,327.08
BOH SEPTIC REVOLVING	72,298.73	2,600.00	-	-	74,898.73
BOH FLU REVOLVING	2,871.89	-	-	-	2,871.89
TITLE V SEPTIC	432.52	-	-	-	432.52

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
Special Revenue:					
Grants, Revolving and Gifts					
COA GIFTS	21,983.61	4,455.00	-	-	26,438.61
VETERANS COLA	474.00	474.00	-	-	948.00
LIBRARY GIFTS	17,249.38	5,198.58	(9,305.14)	-	13,142.82
CHILDRENS ROOM GIFTS	127.00	-	-	-	127.00
LIBRARY DONATION PROJECT MGT	10,000.00	-	(975.00)	-	9,025.00
RECREATION REVOLVING	11,337.50	38,994.39	(24,451.41)	1,240.98	27,121.46
PARKS GIFTS	4,719.58	9,980.00	(9,657.53)	-	5,042.05
MEMORIAL DAY GIFTS	12,844.07	3,645.00	(1,640.00)	-	14,849.07
BEAUTIFUL BOYLSTON	92.11	-	-	-	92.11
CULTURAL COUNCIL GIFTS	3,325.31	-	(48.67)	-	3,276.64

53G Revolving Accounts					
53G CC AOUDE NICHOLAS	1,564.83	-	-	-	1,564.83
53G PB BARNARD HILL	3,615.77	-	(569.05)	-	3,046.72
53G CC MOUNTAIN VIEW	77.85	-	-	-	77.85
53G CC JAMESON RIDGE	6,765.71	-	-	-	6,765.71
53G CC LONGLEY HILL	2,533.41	-	(1,708.50)	-	824.91
53G CC TURFLINKS	508.61	-	-	-	508.61
53G CC COMPASS POINTE	739.73	-	-	-	739.73
53G CC COMPASS CIRCLE/J HAYNES	167.74	1,140.00	(1,140.00)	-	167.74
53G CC BETHLEHEM BIBLE CHURCH	294.17	-	-	-	294.17
53G CC TAHANTO	1,250.28	-	-	-	1,250.28

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
53G Revolving Accounts					
53G CC SUMMER STAR WILDLIFE	3,427.71	-	-	-	3,427.71
53G CC 200 SHREWSBURY STREET	2,071.77	-	-	-	2,071.77
53G CC WORCESTER SAND & GRAVEL	2,647.65	-	-	-	2,647.65
53G CC SCANNELL 220 SHREWSBURY ST	2,809.34	-	-	-	2,809.34
53G CC WORCESTER DONUTS/270 SHREWSBURY ST	2,030.83	-	-	-	2,030.83
53G CC PINE ST BOYLSTON REALTY	363.89	-	-	-	363.89
53G CC 313 MAIN ST REALTY	1,511.14	-	-	-	1,511.14
53G CC PINE ST EXT	792.02	-	-	-	792.02
53G CC 280 SHREWSBURY ST-BATISTA	729.74	-	-	-	729.74
53G CC 85 SEWALL STREET	2,517.81	-	-	-	2,517.81
53G CC 299 SEWALL ST/LILYMERE	886.95	-	-	-	886.95
53G CC SEWALL ST APARTMENTS	614.42	-	-	-	614.42
53G CC TOWER HILL	2,448.20	-	-	-	2,448.20
53G CC 100 SHREWSBURY	1,666.75	6,500.00	(6,431.06)	-	1,735.69
53G CC PINE HILL DR	3,245.90	2,000.00	(4,807.97)	-	437.93
53G CC PERRY RD LOTS 1 AND 2	422.50	-	-	-	422.50
53G CC 8 GULF STREET	1,817.00	-	-	-	1,817.00
53G CC 160 SHREWSBURY - RAND WHITNEY	2,306.37	5,000.00	(7,362.51)	-	(56.14)
53G CC SHAH SCHOOL ST	2,000.00	-	-	-	2,000.00
53G CC SEWALL ST LOTS 1-8	-	1,058.75	(1,058.75)	-	-
53G CC JORDYN ACRES	-	2,625.00	(2,193.75)	-	431.25
53G CC 220 E TEMPLE ST	-	2,087.51	(1,996.26)	-	91.25
53G ER FED-EX	2,025.20	-	-	-	2,025.20
53G EW PINE STREET	2,293.00	-	-	-	2,293.00
53G PB LONGELY HILL	785.29	4,143.28	(4,928.28)	-	0.29
53G PB COMPASS POINT R.E. LLC	452.45	-	-	-	452.45
53G PB STRAW HOLLOW ESTATES	220.90	-	-	-	220.90

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
53G Revolving Accounts					
53G PB SARAH LANE	158.46	-	-	-	158.46
53G PB BARNARD HILL	2,841.39	5,593.00	(5,711.00)	-	2,723.39
53G PB RAND WHITNEY	1,955.27	-	-	-	1,955.27
53G PB MT PLEASANT COUNTRY CLUB	1,520.45	-	-	-	1,520.45
53G PB KREG LLC - COMPASS POINT	3,025.13	-	-	-	3,025.13
53G PB 200 SHREWSBURY ST	2,545.70	-	-	-	2,545.70
53G PB FLAGG STREET / KATZ	269.64	-	-	-	269.64
53G PB TM ELECTRONICS	2,522.81	-	-	-	2,522.81
53G PB 270 SHREWSBURY ST	2,934.40	-	-	-	2,934.40
53G PB SCANNELL PROPERTIES/SHREWSBURY ST	3,653.04	-	-	-	3,653.04
53G PB PINE STREET	595.14	990.01	(1,421.39)	-	163.76
53G PB 280 SHREWSBURY ST WORC BLDG	1,070.56	-	-	-	1,070.56
53G PB 247 MILE HILL RD	971.99	-	-	-	971.99
53G PB 85 SEWALL STREET	10.12	-	-	-	10.12
53G PB 299 SEWALL/GRAVEL PIT	1,891.20	-	-	-	1,891.20
53G PB 84 MAIN STREET/RON WAGNER	534.09	-	-	-	534.09
53G PB COBBLESTONE WOODS	2,500.69	-	-	-	2,500.69
53G PB 321 CROSS	8,438.00	-	-	-	8,438.00
53G PB TRAILSIDE APT 100 SHREWSBURY	2,833.51	-	(2,418.21)	-	415.30
53G PB 8 GULF STREET OVER 55	5.92	1,000.00	(698.50)	-	307.42
53G PB PINE HILL DR WAREHOUSE	29,574.86	-	(5,815.25)	-	23,759.61
53G PB 313 MAIN ST	1,641.50	-	(1,453.57)	-	187.93
53G PB 160 SHREWSBURY/RTE 140	21,538.00	-	(4,368.75)	-	17,169.25
53G PB 500 MAIN/HAWKS PERCH	41.50	-	-	-	41.50
53G PB SUMMER STAR MEADOW	293.58	-	-	-	293.58

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
53G Revolving Accounts					
53G PB 21 BROOKSIDE AVE/WAGNER	364.50	-	-	-	364.50
53G PB 22 DIAMOND HILL AVE	-	4,000.00	(584.00)	-	3,416.00
53G PB KEITHS MUSIC	-	7,462.07	(7,462.07)	-	-
53G ZBA JAMESON RIDGE	4,618.16	-	-	-	4,618.16
53G ZBA MAPLECROFT FARMS	5,173.42	-	-	-	5,173.42
Total Special Revenue Funds	2,252,166	1,616,026	(1,701,450)	1,539	2,168,280
Capital Projects:					
DPW Garage Project	86,031	-	-	(86,031)	-
Library Construction Phase I	885	-	-	(885)	-
Library Construction Phase II	195,141	-	(3,668)	87,891	279,364
Total Capital Projects	282,057	-	(3,668)	975	279,364
Permanent Trust Funds:					
Cemetery Funds	62,991	-	-	-	62,991
Library Funds	18,634	-	-	-	18,634
OPEB Trust	190,912	29,234	(11,876)	25,000	233,270
Total Permanent Trust Funds	272,536	29,234	(11,876)	25,000	314,895

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – All Non-General Funds

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit D

	Fund Balances June 30, 2022	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2023
Expendable Trust Funds:					
Affordable Housing Trust	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Drug Forfeiture Fund	913	-	-	-	913
Cemetery Funds	141,824	3,414	-	-	145,238
Library Funds	65,157	1,475	-	-	66,632
DPW Building Stabilization Fund	741	12	-	-	753
Opioid Stabilization Fund	-	24,867	-	-	24,867
Stabilization Fund	1,380,291	22,074	-	-	1,402,365
Capital Fund	25	-	-	(25)	-
Total Expendable Trust Funds:	1,688,950	51,841	-	(25)	1,740,766
Total - Non-General Governmental Funds	4,495,709	1,697,101	(1,716,994)	27,489	4,503,306

Schedule of Outstanding Taxes Receivable

For the Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit E

Description	Uncollected June 30, 2022	Commitments	Refunds	Add/(Deduct)				Uncollected June 30, 2023
				Adjustments	Abatements	Transfers to Tax Title	Collections	
Real Estate								
2023	-	16,305,158.23	105,543	(6)	(192,404)	(8,384)	(16,148,097)	61,811
2022	76,377	-	-	-	-	(843)	(75,535)	0
	<u>76,377</u>	<u>16,305,158</u>	<u>105,543</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>(192,404)</u>	<u>(9,226)</u>	<u>(16,223,631)</u>	<u>61,811</u>
Personal Property								
2023	-	339,202.82	1,173	-	(2,093)	-	(337,347)	935
	-	<u>339,203</u>	<u>1,173</u>	-	<u>(2,093)</u>	-	<u>(337,347)</u>	<u>935</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise								
2023	-	1,087,414	10,435	-	(21,698)	-	(979,091)	97,061
2022	78,368	131,396	13,466	-	(17,686)	-	(180,427)	25,118
2021	11,755	-	855	-	(942)	-	(7,283)	4,385
2020	6,007	-	-	-	(77)	-	(3,967)	1,963
2019	2,515	-	-	-	-	-	(836)	1,679
2018	2,977	-	-	-	-	-	(5)	2,972
2017	2,815	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,815
2016	1,439	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,439
2015	1,772	-	-	-	-	-	(155)	1,617
2014	1,143	-	-	-	(1,143)	-	-	-
2013	-	125	-	-	-	-	(125)	-
	<u>108,791</u>	<u>1,218,935</u>	<u>24,756</u>	-	<u>(41,546)</u>	-	<u>(1,171,888)</u>	<u>139,048</u>
Tax Liens								
	<u>105,243</u>	<u>10,092</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>(29,504)</u>	<u>85,831</u>
Tax Possessions								
	<u>123,192</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>123,192</u>

Schedule of Outstanding Debt

For the Year Ended June 30th, 2023 – Exhibit F

Original Loan Date	Final Due Date	Principal				Interest Paid
		Balance June 30, 2022	Funds Borrowed	Principal Payments	Balance June 30, 2023	
07/17/15	07/15/35	3,585,000	0	(260,000)	3,325,000	116,525
		3,585,000	0	(260,000)	3,325,000	116,525
Maturities						
		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
	Principal	260,000	260,000	260,000	255,000	255,000
	Interest	116,525	106,125	95,725	85,425	75,225
	Total	376,525	366,125	355,725	340,425	330,225

MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The Boylston Municipal Light Department strives to provide excellent service and economical electric rates to its customers.

The Boylston Municipal Light Department (BMLD) has continued its maintenance program, consisting of pole replacements, wire upgrades, and tree trimming to minimize power outages for our ratepayers. This also helps keep restoration times for outages at a minimum.

A total of 24 outages were reported throughout the year with an average 2-hour restoration time. The longest outages were caused by large trees which fell damaging powerlines and poles. The longest outage lasted an estimated 6 hours.

A total of 46 utility poles were replaced during the year.

A total of 20 new residential accounts, 8 business accounts and 3 large commercial accounts were added to the town's system in 2023.

The BMLD had 1 new commercial and 5 new residential solar arrays installed in 2023.

BMLD now has 3 commercial solar customers and 33 residential solar customers in Town.

A total of 193,219 kwh's were purchased back from all the solar arrays in the past year.

BMLD installed new fiber cable, which replaced an old copper line, that was part of the new radio project for all the Town Departments. The new radios and antennas will allow all the departments to communicate with each other directly during emergency situations and increase radio coverage for the safety of all the Town's employees.

The BMLD would like to thank all the Town Departments who assisted the Light Department throughout the year.

The BMLD through the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), which Boylston is a member, manages Boylston's power portfolio by purchasing low-cost electricity. MMWEC also plans, develops, and manages energy resources that BMLD jointly owns.

BMLD continues working with MMWEC to add offshore wind and utility scale battery to its power portfolio.

BMLD's power portfolio for the year ending 2023 was on average 39% carbon free. BMLD is continuing its efforts to lower carbon emitting generation in its energy portfolio to meet the state's new requirements.

BMLD provides Residential Energy Efficiency Services to its customers through MMWEC.

The NextZero program is designed to assist our customers with rebates on Energy Star appliances, home energy audits, and other efficiency measures. Information on rebates and incentives can be viewed on their web site. (www.nextzero.org)

MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

The BMLD would like to thank Eric Johnson for his 13 years of service to the Light Department and ratepayers as a Light Board Member.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Barakian / General Manager

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Gross Revenue:	3,872,828.00	4,612,665.00	5,573,913.00
Operating Expense:	4,260,806.00	4,572,568.00	5,808,237.00
Misc. Sales	24,556.00	25,149.00	24,837
Profit:	(206,273)	215,736.00	70,667
Physical Plant Cost:	6,518,591.00	6,535,633.00	6,635,635.00
KW of Demand:	8,175	8,729	8,828
KWH Bought:	34,608,983	35,353,209	35,659,856
KWH Sold:	32,785,005	33,453,856	33,962,094
Customers	2470	2493	2453
Purchase Power Avg. Cost:	0.12	0.14	0.16

Light Commission Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month or as posted.

The Board held 8 regular meetings and 1 special meeting with the following attendance:

John McQuade 9, Eric Johnson 3, Steve Mero 8, Shiela Miller 6

(No meetings were held in the months of February, April, July, and November)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

24 Hr Emergency Service Phone Number: 508-869-6564



Boylston Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police
John A. Annunziata
215 Main Street
Boylston, MA 01505
Phone: 508-869-2113
Fax: 508-869-2360



In 2023, the Boylston Police Department welcomed two new officers, Justin Ryel and Ryan Kelly, to address vacancies within the department. Officer Ryel, previously affiliated with the Woonsocket RI Police Department, and Officer Kelly, who had served with the East Brookfield Police Department, seamlessly integrated into the department after successfully completing their field training programs, proving to be invaluable assets to the department.

Following a 23-year career, Detective Parker, with 21 years dedicated to the Town of Boylston, retired. Throughout his tenure, Detective Parker undertook a diverse array of responsibilities, including roles such as school liaison officer, domestic violence officer, court prosecution, public records management, and criminal investigations. The department expresses heartfelt gratitude for his commendable service.

Officer Marderosian departed from the Boylston Police Department, seizing a new law enforcement opportunity in North Carolina. Despite his relatively brief one-year tenure, Officer Marderosian left a lasting impression on the department, and we extend our best wishes for success in his endeavors in a warmer climate.

The Boylston Police Department actively engaged with the community through participation in numerous events, such as Toys-For-Tots, Trunk or Treat, Field Days, Coffee with a Cop, and more. These events were designed to enhance relationships within the community, fostering both existing connections and the development of new ones. Recognizing the paramount importance of relationships, the department acknowledges its critical role in ensuring the success and efficiency of its staff in performing their duties.

Continuing its commitment to community service, the department collaborated with the council on aging, offering services to seniors. Notably, the "Are You Okay" service allowed seniors to receive daily phone calls to check their well-being or engage in friendly chats, with officers offering resources upon request. Any resident who wishes to receive these phone calls may sign up with the police department or council on aging.

The Boylston Police Department achieved a Controlled Substances License, enabling the dispensing of Narcan upon request. This project received funding through state grants, showcasing the department's commitment to public safety. If you would like to receive Narcan, a request can be made through dispatch 24/7.

Generous support from Boylston businesses played a pivotal role in the department's endeavors. LEI Corporation continued its commitment by donating funds for a motorcycle, while M.D. Landscape Construction supported the department with a donation earmarked for

Police Department

remodeling a report writing room. Worcester Pistol and Rifle Range's donation funded essential equipment in the armory and training.

The Boylston Police Department actively pursued state and federal grants, utilizing a portion of the funds to offset costs related to dispatch and mandated training. These grants, exceeding \$100,000, facilitated the acquisition of crucial equipment, including bleeding control kits, automated electronic defibrillators (AEDs), narcotics investigation equipment, and license plate readers.

Detective Ryel continued establishing networks with various training vendors, enabling the department to access free or discounted training programs. These initiatives contributed to providing the community of Boylston with superior police services and adherence to best practices.

Ongoing efforts towards state accreditation marked a significant milestone for the department. Led by Sgt. Thomasian, appointed as the accreditation manager, this rigorous process involves adherence to strict professional standards and assessment by the accreditation committee. Achieving accreditation ensures the implementation of best practices and continuous evaluation of high-liability areas within police operations.

The Boylston Police Department remains committed to transparency as a central focus. Our website has been enhanced to feature weekly police logs, detailed policies and procedures, information about our internal affairs process, guidelines on filing complaints, and data related to speeding complaints. Regular updates will be made, so we encourage you to check our website frequently. If you have any suggestions for additional content, please feel free to contact us.

I would like to commend the entire staff of the Boylston Police Department for their outstanding professional service to the Town of Boylston. Your commitment is admirable, and I am honored to lead and work alongside this group of professionals. Recognition is also extended to fellow town departments and department heads, acknowledging the vital behind-the-scenes work that often goes unnoticed.

Finally, heartfelt gratitude is extended to community members and businesses whose continued support plays an indispensable role in the success of police operations in Boylston.

Respectfully,



John A. Annunziata
Chief of Police

Police Department

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
911 Calls	35	104	569	667	529
Assault and Battery	1	1	3	5	3
Alarm Response	170	115	123	155	156
Animal Complaint	55	54	82	73	81
B&E	3	1	9	4	7
Check Well Being	60	50	74	101	83
Civil Dispute	12	5	6	19	10
Disturbance	45	38	32	39	25
Domestic Disturbance	21	12	14	11	13
Erratic Operator	49	42	53	63	45
Larceny	5	18	47	49	37
M/V Lockout	4	5	8	9	9
Mutual Aid	33	16	2	82	72
M/V Accident	81	77	76	99	96
M/V Stop	1933	480	899	1950	2457
Parking Violation	9	20	32	18	45
Safety Hazard	105	105	97	153	155
Serve Summons/Warrant	30	33	16	24	55
Suspicious Activity	126	103	98	138	128
Arrest/Charged	124	41	66	186	194
Total # of all calls including the ones listed above	12,379	12,968	15,536	26,863	30,412

Police Department

2023 Department Roster

Chief of Police

John Annunziata

Executive Assistant

Christine Bissonnette

Sergeants

Robert Thomas, Jr.

Cody Thomasian

Mark Shepard

Detectives

Matthew Ryel

Patrolman

Robert Barbato

Jared Piche

Kenneth Johnson

Samuel Rivera

Kevin Monaghan

David McNutt

Justin Ryel

Ryan Kelly

Dispatchers

Pamela Rudge

Lynn Purcell

Jennefer Schiavone

Bonnie White

Sheila Crosbie

Kevin Colomey

Fire Chief and Forest Warden

The Boylston Fire Department is a combination career/paid on-call department consisting of a full-time fire chief and six full time firefighter/EMTs; the full-time staff works in groups of two to cover the community from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm seven days a week. The full-time staff works in conjunction with 16 on-call firefighters, many who are also emergency medical technicians, to handle emergency calls for service. This EMS staff also covers per diem shifts from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each weeknight and 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

As we try to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, the Boylston Fire Department continues to work daily with the local Board of Health and the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health to provide COVID-19 services to the community as needed. COVID-19 test kits and facemasks are available to anyone who needs them.

The Boylston Fire Department was fortunate to receive several state and federal grants in 2023, including a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$179,857 for the purchase of replacement self-contained breathing apparatus. This new equipment replaced outdated equipment and had an immediate impact on firefighter safety.

The department is very grateful for the support from the community in funding a much-needed upgrade of all the public safety communications equipment for fire, police, highway and light departments. The departments can now communicate directly with each other and all our mutual aid partners. This could not have been done without support from townspeople.

The fire department reminds all residents to inspect and test their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on a regular basis and replace batteries every six months if the detectors are equipped with standard batteries. Remember, even hard-wired smoke alarms have batteries that need to be changed on a regular basis. All smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years; carbon monoxide detectors should be replaced every five to seven years, depending on the manufacturer. All homes with attached garages or that are heated with oil, gas, or wood should have carbon monoxide detectors. Fire department personnel are always available to help to answer questions about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and to assist with the installation of detectors and replacement of detector batteries.

The Boylston Fire Department staffs two basic life support ambulances to supply emergency medical services to the community. The Fire Department worked in conjunction with paramedic services from neighboring departments to provide the town with the highest level of emergency care in the field.

Fire Chief and Forest Warden

During 2023, the Fire Department EMS responded to the following calls:

Basic/advance life support	409
Motor vehicle crashes	36
Carbon monoxide alarms	13
Fire alarms	72
Fire scene standby	85
Mutual aid	152
<u>Total EMS calls</u>	<u>767</u>

During 2023, the Fire Department responded to the following calls:

Motor vehicle crashes	36
Carbon monoxide alarms	13
Fire/smoke alarms	74
Fires in a structure	13
Brush fires	12
Vehicle fires	5
Gas leaks	16
All other calls	44
Mutual aid	42
<u>Total Fire Calls</u>	<u>255</u>

Open air burning is allowed by the DEP from January 15th through May 1st of each year and is supervised by the Boylston Fire Department. Residents can burn brush and other yard waste during this time once they obtain an open-air burning permit. Permits were available at the fire department and through the town's website. In 2023, the fire department issued 264 seasonal burning permits and the fire department supervised a total of 730 open air fires during the open burning season.

In addition to calls for emergency services, the fire department also provides fire prevention services to the community. With the new development in town, both residential and commercial, fire prevention activities occupied a lot of the fire department's time. Department members also conducted a plan review for smoke and carbon monoxide placement in all new homes being built. Fire prevention continues to be a large part of the services the fire department provides to the community.

Fire Chief and Forest Warden

In 2023, the following inspections were performed by fire department personnel:

Plan review	56
Compliance inspections	72
Pellet/Wood stove inspections	5
Propane storage permits	25
Oil tank/ burner installations/removal	23
Sprinkler permits	2
Welding/hot work permits	3
Liquor license inspections	5
Blasting permits	1
Blasting inspections	24
Open-air burning permits	264
Open-air burning supervision	730
<u>Total Fire Prevention</u>	<u>1210</u>
<u>Total calls for service in 2023</u>	<u>2232</u>

Joseph P. Flanagan, Fire Chief

Fire Department Roster

Fire Chief and Forest Warden

Joseph Flanagan*

Deputy Chief

Matthew Ronn

Captain

Don MacKenzie*

Lieutenants

Roger Young

Scott McCubrey

Jason Bradford*

Michael Buddenhagen

Paul Osterberg

Daniel Buddenhagen*

Michael O'Sullivan*

Chaplain

Deacon Dick Martino

Firefighters / Emergency Medical Technicians

Laura Carlson	EMT	Megan O'Sullivan	EMT
Jayden Chiasson	EMT	John Phipps	EMT
Nicole Chiasson	Firefighter/EMT	Alan Portis	Firefighter/EMT
Tim Ciampaglia	Firefighter/FR	Elise Probst	EMT
Ryan Colleton	Firefighter/FR	Aivah Puri	EMT
Kevin Colomey	Firefighter/EMT	Mason Ronn	Firefighter/FR
Tabitha Conway	Firefighter/EMT	Ryan Schloerb*	Firefighter/EMT
Jeff Dempsey-Holmes	Firefighter/FR	April Steward	EMT
Guinevere Ferreira	EMT	Keegan Watson	Firefighter
Corey Fisher	Firefighter/EMT	Bill Weir*	Firefighter/EMT
Chuck Hill	Firefighter/FR	Matt Welch	Firefighter/FR
Joe Murray	EMT	Kelly Wilhide	EMT
Robert O'Connell	Firefighter/EMT	Christian Vogt	Firefighter/EMT

* Full Time Employee

Highway Department

The task of maintaining the 65 miles of streets in 2023 was carried out by the working Superintendent, Foreman, three full time MEO2, one Mechanic and one full time Administrative Assistant. We had 3 summer interns who did the mowing/landscaping in the summer months.

Department responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Roadside mowing & brush cutting and chipping
- Cemetery maintenance & internments
- Maintenance of playgrounds, town common area and town sports fields
- Patching and repairing roads
- Catch basin maintenance
- Tree cutting & pruning
- Street sweeping
- Line painting
- This year, we took on the responsibility of maintaining the Hillside hay fields

Fleet of Equipment

Our mechanic works diligently to maintain the fleet of equipment for the town. Approximately 33 vehicles are serviced and repaired for the Highway Department, Cemetery Department, Police Department, and various other town vehicles. A significant amount of fabrication work is done in-house to rebuild aging equipment to keep the equipment in service.

A big project was done in-house on a 36-year-old sander body to be put on one of our plow trucks. It took countless hours of labor to do so, from building a new sub frame from scratch, a new chassis, hydraulic work, sanding all the rust, to new wiring of lights and more.

Snow & Salt

The Highway Department treated roads 21 days and plowed 10 days in 2023. A total of 1613 tons of salt was used to treat and maintain safe road conditions.

Snow and ice control was maintained by nine (9) pieces of department heavy equipment and six (6) pieces of department light equipment. Highway personnel as well as one (1) additional town employees and one (2) seasonal employee were utilized during snowstorms. The town also secured four (3) private contractors to maintain some of the secondary roads in town.

We are also responsible for plowing and treating the elementary school and town properties.

We provide salt/sand for town residents to use for their homes during the Winter season which is located at the Highway Garage in our new salt/yard waste shed located @ 385 Main street.

Highway Department

Driveway Permits

Residents who resurface, reconstruct or construct a new driveway are required to apply for a driveway permit prior to the work being done. If a permit is not secured prior to the work being done, the Highway Department will not be responsible for any damage done to a driveway that meets the town road that was paved without a permit. Driveways constructed or altered in the Town of Boylston must meet requirements, be viewed and approved by the Highway Superintendent. These permits allow the department a method of controlling how the work is done. A total of 8 permits were issued in 2023.

Re-Surfacing and Maintenance of Roads

1.25 Miles of Central Street was paved in July/August. Storm drains were updated with new piping. We received town appropriated funds from the MassDOT state aid program to help fund the project.

Radio Project

New radios were installed in our equipment in September, which allows us to have consistent communication throughout the town.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping the town took place in June and it is done thru an outside contractor. It takes about 2 weeks to do the entire town.

Storm Drains

Boylston has 572 storm drains that we clean and maintain over the course of the year. We collected approximately 200 yards of waste in 2023.

Yard Waste

The yard waste drop off shed is located at the Highway Garage, 385 Main Street for residents. You may drop off your yard waste any day from spring to fall. We accept leaves, grass and plants, no brush. Please empty your bags and take them with you.

Highway Department

Salt Shed

The salt shed located at the Highway Garage, 385 Main Street is for residents to come and take material for their homes throughout the season. Please bring your own containers. There is a shovel hanging up in the shed for you to use.

Education

A Hoisting Engineer Continuing Education class was held in September at the town house which included surrounding communities.

Our staff attended a DCR equipment calibration training program in October. Boylston is a salt reduction community.

Annual Town Meeting – May 2023

Thank you to town residents for your votes to pass the following:

- Article 14 – Procuring a new truck for plowing and sanding

In closing, I would like to commend the entire department for the excellent services they provided the town during the 2023 year. Also, thank you to the residents for your continued support of the Highway Department in all that we do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven R Mero
Highway Superintendent

Tree Warden

The Tree division falls under the Highway Department. We continued to work taking down roadside trees that are a hazard with the help of a local contractor. An outside contractor is needed to do these big projects as the Highway Department does not have the equipment to do so. We continue to attend to the roadside brush. Trimming and removing decaying dead trees, considered a hazard within the Town's right-of-way, was carried out this year as well.

Asian Long-Horned Beetles

The entire Town of Boylston is still in the quarantine area and all work was done in compliance with Asian Long Horned Beetle regulations. Beetle traps were hung throughout the town to trap and monitor beetle activity. All employees attended compliance classes for beetle certification. USDA and the DCR continue to survey our town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven R Mero, Tree Warden

Boylston Public Library

A Snapshot of Library Use in FY23

- Boylston library patrons borrowed 63,458 books, videos, e-books, audios, magazines, and museum passes.
- Our patrons borrowed 5,299 items through the library's interlibrary loan service, and the library loaned 3,819 items to other libraries.
- The library provided 5,500 wireless internet sessions for patrons in or outside the library through their personal devices or library laptops/iPads.
- We hosted 404 programs for adults, teens, and children with a total of 5,556 people in attendance.
- There were over 30,000 visits to the library.

2023 was a record-breaking year for our library. The statistics in the above snapshot show a 115% increase in programs, a 152% increase in attendance, and a 20% increase in circulation compared to 2022. This was the busiest year for the library in its 119-year history!

The Strategic Plan conducted in 2022 demonstrated that Boylston residents consider events as a vital part of library services. Library staff therefore emphasized an increase in diverse public programs for 2023. Some of the new programs included regular Technology Help, a Meet Your Neighbor series to showcase the Boylston community, and increased children's events for ages 6-11. Many library events were offered in an online or hybrid format. The library also hosted the second Fall Festival on the Common with live music, food trucks, kids' activities, and local vendors. The Boylston Historical Society, Parks and Recreation, and the First Congregational Church of Boylston also participated in the festival. The event was sponsored by the Boylston Public Library Foundation, Creative Event Services and Clinton Savings Bank.

The library was awarded an American Library Association grant to specifically fund an increase in teen programs. Importantly, the grant also funded additional staff hours to plan and implement new teen initiatives. These programs were very successful, demonstrating that teens are eager to use library services catering to their needs. The library will be seeking ways to formally include teen responsibilities in future job descriptions and staffing levels.

Our services continued to include free printing, faxing, scanning and laptop availability. Use of the library's mobile hot spots expanded significantly in 2023. Use of digital content also continued to expand throughout 2023. Ancestry, Consumer Reports, Hoopla, Kanopy, and Gale Online Resources were offered for all Boylston residents. This year, Brainfuse HelpNow was introduced for live homework help and academic assistance, including SAT prep, Spanish language tutoring, and a writing lab. Brainfuse is funded by the Boylston Public Library Foundation.

In recent years, libraries across the country have been working to update policies and procedures to meet the range of complex challenges they now face. Relying on established state and federal policies as well as best practices, the Boylston Library created a Children's Room Behavior Policy, and updated the Collection Development Policy as well the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials. The library's new and improved policies create a transparent and clear process for key library procedures.

Boylston Public Library

Since 2021, the library has been reporting on staff wages and compensation studies. The Boylston Library Trustees strongly advocate for fair compensation for staff and adequate staffing levels. For 2023, wage funding increased by about 18% overall. Expense funding increased by 17%. This increase in expenses provided continued compliance with the state's certification requirement for funds allocated to print and digital library materials, funding for increased electricity, and maintenance costs. The Trustees and library staff would like to acknowledge the town's efforts to close the wage gap and implement a pay progression scale.

The Board of Trustees helped oversee necessary maintenance of the building and updating of library policies throughout 2023. Towards the end of 2023, the Trustees resumed planning for Phase III of library renovations. These renovations will address the exterior of the historic building, including the gables and eaves. Renovations are expected to begin in 2024. We would like to welcome new Trustee member Acuzena Filsinger, who brings her considerable knowledge of the community and an eagerness to serve.

Our achievements truly could not have been possible without the tremendous support from our Trustees and dedicated staff, as well as the Boylston Public Library Foundation. This year, the Foundation funded all library events that were not sponsored by additional grants.

“Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.” - R. David Lankes

Respectfully submitted, Erica Hout, Director Boylston Public Library

Parks and Recreation Commission

This was another busy year for the Parks and Recreation Commission. In spring of 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission sponsored a volunteer clean-up day at Manor Park. During that time volunteers not only removed trash but made improvements to the playground area by installing tether ball purchased with a donation from Christos Hot Dog truck, and a gaga pit. In early summer, the commission also had the hemlock trees lining the parking area professionally trimmed, creating a more pleasing view for neighbors and guests, while eliminating areas where trash collects.

Right on schedule in the spring of 2023 the commission began the first phase of trail construction at the former Camp Harrington property. The first trail, along with improvements to the parking area, an entry sign, and three interpretive signs were completed in May of 2023, meeting the final requirements of the PARC grant obtained by the Town. The completion of this project released the final reimbursement payment of the grant to the Town. The commission is pleased to add Harrington Park to the list of recreation amenities and hopes residents will continue to support improvements of the property.

In early 2023 the commission, in partnership with the Worcester Sports Foundation, began the installation of an 18-hole Disc Golf course on the Hillside property that was fully approved in 2022. Through the hard work and dedication of motivated volunteers from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Worcester Sports Foundation, Disc Golf players from Boylston and surrounding towns, and job corps students, along with the support of several Town Departments, the course quickly began to take shape. By mid-summer the course was playable and by fall was nearly complete. A grand opening of the Hillside Park Disc Golf Course is planned for spring of 2024.

At the Hillside gym, safety enhancements and improvements were made during 2023. Thanks to a donation from M.D. Landscape Construction, a long-awaited safety update to the two main backboards was possible. The boards were completely replaced, greatly improving the quality of play for the basketball teams and residents that shoot hoops in the gym. The commission also had additional safety mats installed on the walls of the gym, providing greater protection for all gym users. And finally, the floors were sanded, lines were added for two full pickleball courts and a drill court, and the floors top coated. The commission is pleased to provide a safer space for the many groups that use our gym, including Boylston youth sports organizations and the popular pickleball program.

Thanks to a previous donation from 'Keep Boylston Beautiful', a lovely park bench was installed at Center Court Park. To add to the beauty of the flower bulbs planted the previous year, decorative barrels filled with annuals were added to help define the parking area. An umbrella was also added to provide shade for the sunny picnic area. Pickleball paddles, balls, and a net were added to the 'Library of Things' at the Boylston Public Library. Anyone with a library card may check them out for play at Center Court Park.

During the year, the Parks and Recreation Department was able to provide a multitude of different programs to suit the diverse recreational interests of residents; from a guided tour of the Hillside Trails, to an adult CPR class in conjunction with the Fire Department, to soccer camp, to a baby sitting preparedness class, to adult self-defense, to Halloween game night! We continue to welcome input from the community, so if there is something you want us to host or a skill you want to share, let us know! 'Like' us on Meta (Facebook) and 'follow' us on Instagram for the latest news. Our registration site, Boylstonparks.org, also has the latest information and with an account you can receive email notifications!

The commission would like to acknowledge the support we received throughout the year from volunteers, town businesses, and organizations that keep our needs in mind. We would also like to thank the Town

Parks and Recreation Commission

Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Facilities Technician, and the Police, Fire, Highway, Water, and Light Departments, among many others, for their continued support and help.

In 2024 we look forward to continuing our support of the many Boylston youth sports organizations and other groups that use our facilities. We are grateful for the past support from the Boylston Community, and as we continue working to improve recreational facilities and opportunities, we hope we can continue to count on the support of Boylston residents!

~ With many thanks from The Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission

Cultural Council

Meetings:

- 01/12/2023: The Council held a public meeting at the Town Hall
 - Reviewed uses for previous locally raised funds, just over \$3,500 which the BCC can use however we elect to, per the MCC.
 - Discussed MCC requirement to carry unused administrative amounts & interest accrued, into the next granting cycle.
 - Reviewed final funding amount for granting.
 - Discussed strategies for the recruitment of new members

- 04/05/2023: Council held a public Zoom Meeting
 - Voted and approved (2) program date changes by Grantee, Boylston Parks & Recreation

- 04/26/2023: Council held a public meeting at the Town Hall
 - Set date for MCC online training
 - Discussed publicizing the BCC & programs, via town departments, Facebook & Instagram
 - Acknowledged the need to widely market available council positions to the community
 - Devised plan for a Community Survey: tweak existing, determine distribution; who what, when, where

- 05/23/2023: Council held a public meeting at the Town House
 - Welcomed new member, Andrea MacRitchie
 - Linda Oroszko. and Kathy Evans shared information from the 5/15/23 meeting with Lawson Graphics; the proposal included the development of BCC logo and flyers
 - Reviewed the revised, Community Survey for the Memorial Day Parade 2023

- 06/14/2023: Council held a public meeting at the Town House
 - Reviewed the 2023 Memorial Day Survey results
 - Reviewed results for Facebook Survey
 - Redefined our LCC: # council members, positions & responsibilities
 - Formed our LCC Priorities for MCC website for BCC, based on survey results
 - Vote on meeting with additional graphic designer(s)
 - Decided to transition to the Direct Granting Process, instead of the Reimbursement process for 2024 Grantees.
 - Agreed on a summer schedule for reimbursement pickup and drop offs

- 08/17/2023: Council held public meeting at the Town House
 - Lawson Graphics presented a new marketing proposal (logo & marketing material)
 - Council Positions: Kathy Evans to Chair, and Linda Oroszko to be Secretary.

Cultural Council

- o Kathy Evans and Kristen Socha discussed recruitment activity for council members; letters were sent out to parties who expressed interest at the Memorial Day parade, as well as referrals
- o Reviewed processed reimbursements June 2023 - August 2023
- o Discussed August promotion avenues for the upcoming grant cycle (newspaper, social media & publicity pieces for distribution)
- o Final Priorities & Guidelines established
- 09/28/2023 Council held public meeting at the Town Hall
 - o Voted on the dollar amount for Administrative Funds for the 2024 grant cycle
 - o Determined that the BCC will not host a BCC-sponsored event this year, which would require using up to 20% of state-granted funds (from \$6,100- grant); event planning before a granting cycle is required
 - o Updates provided on BCC Grant Cycle Promotion (The Item, flyers distributed via email, & social media)
- 11/02/2023 Council held public meeting at the Town Hall
 - o Welcomed new member, Maya Nanjundaswamy
 - o Voted on Boylston Parks & Recreation venue change
 - o Members provided any updates
 - o PANEL BOOK VOTING: All 24 applications were reviewed and voted on allocations, using the \$6,100- grant.
Fourteen grants were awarded in full, or for partial funding.

Research:

- A Google survey was completed for Facebook and was used at the Memorial Day Parade in 2023; we reached a wider population for input.

Information gleaned from the surveys was used in funding decisions.

In 2024, the BCC will give priority to:

- o Programs that focus on community-wide gatherings, festivals, concerts, plays, nature, history, science, the environment, and visual exhibits.
- o Programs that serve teens, families, and senior citizens.
- o Applicants who have secured a local venue.

Publicity & Promotions:

- A link for “Boylston Cultural Council” is listed on the Mass Cultural Council website, <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/boylston/>
It provides contact information and summarizes details for the BCC grant cycle.
- In Spring 2023, the Council met to brainstorm ways to further promote the Cultural Council. Also devised a plan for future publicity (Social Media, via Town Hall departments, local businesses, schools, local newspaper); we created a Facebook,

Cultural Council

Boylston Cultural Council page, advertised the grant cycle in the Clinton Item, on Boylston Facebook community pages, and emailed schools, and town departments with the Grant Cycle deadline

- At the 2023 Memorial Day Parade, we shared a table with Boylston Parks & Recreation, promoting open council positions, and we conducted the survey.

Funding:

- Annually, the Boylston Cultural Council (BCC) is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency. State funding for Grant Cycle 2024: \$6,100.00
- 2024 Grants:
 - A public Panel Book/voting meeting was held at the town hall on November 2, 2023.
 - The BCC reviewed and voted on the Panel Book:
24 Applications were received, 14 projects were approved, and 10 were declined.

Other:

- We are actively seeking at least (2) community members to serve on our LLC!
- Efforts will be made in 2024 to educate our community about the BCC, promote approved upcoming programs, and recruit enthusiastic members.
- We hired a graphic designer to develop a logo and signage for the BCC. Graphic designer will also improve our Facebook page, and help with social media presence. Locally raised funds in our account (from years ago) are being invested in this project for a long-term impact on our LLC.

Membership/Term:

Kathy Evans, Chair/Expires 06/21/2024

Linda Orozco, Secretary/ Expires 07/19/2024

Kristen Socha/ Expires 05/20/2025

Miyoshi Holden/ Expires 06/30/2026

Andrea MacRitchie/ Expires 05/15/2026

Maya Nanjundaswany/ Expires 09/11/2026

New Members in 2023: Andrea MacRitchie, and Maya Nanjundaswany

Term Ended in 2023: Michael Csorba

Resigned Members in 2023: Elena Scaplen

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Evans

Historical Commission

The Boylston Historical Commission was established by the Town of Boylston for the preservation, protection and development of the historical and archeological assets of the town under the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8D. This Commission is composed of the following six members: Bruce Filgate, Chairman; Judith Haynes, Secretary; Nancy Filgate, Treasurer; Patricia Bartram; David Bottom; and Judith Bottom. The Commission schedules its meeting monthly. See <https://www.boylston-ma.gov/historical-commission> for contact information and current meeting times. The Commission continues to increase the number of electronic-database driven research projects pursued by Historical Commissioners and many other volunteers on behalf of the Town of Boylston.

In conjunction with the Boylston Master Plan approved by the Townspeople of Boylston in 2022, the Commission has provided a representative to Boylston's Master Plan Steering Committee. This Committee consisting of town staff, town board members, and the townspeople of Boylston will oversee the implementation of the Master Plan, a comprehensive long-range strategic vision for the Town of Boylston with consideration to the retention of the New England town character as recommended by its townspeople to retain Boylston's character.

The Commission has provided a representative to the Community Preservation Committee. This committee was formed to develop and administer the Community Preservation Plan to preserve open space, historic sites, create affordable housing and develop outdoor recreational facilities for our town.

The Historical Commission with the Boylston Cemetery Association and Boylston Historical Society, and volunteers continued to drive the "Boylston Cemetery Research Project." This consortium and volunteers search federal, state, and local documents, burial records, and cemetery stones in both the Old Burial Ground and Pine Grove Cemetery, publishing this ongoing research on FindaGrave.com [Note: <http://www.findagrave.com> is a free online site containing photographs and graves' data.] The consortium's primary goals are to research and preserve our town's heritage as presented in our cemeteries, linking these town citizens to their roots and descendants. Specific concentration is given to accurate documentation and historical relevance. As part of this activity, the Commission is researching, identifying and ensuring the marking of veteran's graves in both cemeteries as well as providing the interface to the project's FindaGrave publishing. At present we are pursuing information and managing 3743 FindaGrave memorials, comprised of local citizens who are buried in Boylston and elsewhere, as well as updating with local historical data those grave memorials of citizens who have moved away from Boylston.

The Historical Commission, the Boylston Historical Society, and the Boylston Public Library Collaborative research, "*Boylston Veterans of the American Civil War*" was completed and published through the sponsorship of the Historical Commission, the Boylston Cultural Council, and the Boylston Historical Society in 2023. The book by several local townspeople and Tahanto students, was written to honor the courage and lives of our local men.

Under the direction of the Historical Commission, six Tahanto Regional High School students and several townspeople researched local, state, federal and Civil War records to add the

Historical Commission

information to the individuals' online memorials, in our Old Burial Ground and Pine Grove Cemetery on FindaGrave; thereby providing a more complete virtual database for researchers, historians and the townspeople of Boylston.

In collaboration with the Cemetery Commission, the civil war researchers, and other volunteers, the Historical Commission marked the newly identified Civil War veteran's burial locations with flag holders, and placed US flags on these and all veterans' memorials in the Old Burial Ground and Pine Grove Cemeteries to honor our veteran's service.

In continuing outreach to afford townspeople and student participation opportunities in research and preservation of Boylston history there are two ongoing projects:

Collaborating with the Boylston Historical Society & Museum, the Historical Commission co-sponsors the student internships for the photographing, scanning, and computerization of older Boylston pictures, historical documents, and other town historical artifacts for the computer database inventory in order to make Boylston's history accessible for researchers, genealogists, and its townspeople.

The Historical Commission and the Boylston Historical Society have formed a research collaborative to gather biographical information about the lives and military service of local Revolutionary War veterans and their role in the struggle for independence.

The Historical Commission continues to oversee the maintenance and general upkeep of the Historic Town Hall. The building alarm system is radio linked to the Town Library, Fire Station, and town Office building, with the building alarm response by the Commission, Boylston Fire and Boylston Police as needed. During the year, the Commission maintained the Historic Town Hall, preserving its rich history while providing a meeting venue for our townspeople, local organizations, and researchers.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Filgate, Chair
Boylston Historical Commission

The John B. Gough House at Hillside Farm

In 2001 The Town of Boylston voted to enter into a historic preservation agreement with the Massachusetts Historical Commission to protect 12-acres of town owned property. The agreement protects what remains of the 1848 Hillside Farm, designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1975 (expanded in 2006).

Hillside Farm stands as a beacon of America's 19th century social reform era.

For the last 23 years the Hillside Restoration Project, Inc. (HRP) has stewarded the restoration of Hillside Farm, proud to have saved and historically restored significant features of this important town asset; Public and private contributions (\$1.8 M) were raised for the restoration work, which excluded town funds.

Today the community has an opportunity to adaptively re-use the site while preserving one of eight precious NHL in central Massachusetts.

The HRP and the Town of Boylston have formed a public private partnership to preserve the site while seeking the collaboration of a wide range of community partners and individuals.



Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) allows communities to establish dedicated funds for open space, recreation, historic preservation and affordable housing. Boylston voters adopted CPA in November 2022 approving a surcharge of 1% on real estate tax bills.

In December 2022, town meeting approved the bylaw establishing a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to administer the program. Boylston's CPC is made up of 5 representatives of town boards, (Planning, Conservation, Parks and Recreation, Historical, Affordable Housing) and 4 at-large members appointed by Selectmen.

Our committee met for the first time in March to elect officers and discuss the requirements of the Community Preservation Act. In April we completed a two hour training session presented by the statewide Community Preservation Coalition.

Subsequent meetings have been devoted to developing a Community Preservation Plan. This Plan is a summary of our work in developing community preservation goals for Boylston. It incorporates sections of the Master Plan, Housing Production Plan, and Open Space and Recreation Plan for reference and guidance. The Committee met with Town Boards and Committees, and residents to solicit their input. It outlines Boylston's current resources and the needs and possibilities for community preservation activities enhancing open space, recreation, historic resources and community housing

The Draft Plan is available on the CPC page of the town's website. We hope this Plan will serve as an informational document for residents, and a guideline and instructional document for applicants seeking project funding through CPA.

The committee is required to hold at least one public hearing each year to get input from the general public, and use that input to keep Boylston's Community Preservation Plan up to date. We invite residents to attend the forum to give their input on how Boylston's CPA funds should be spent.

Each fall the CPC will accept project proposals from the community and review them with the aim of selecting projects for recommendation to Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Jones, Chair, Community Preservation Committee

Board of Health

In 2023, COVID-19 declined in all cities and towns. The board made available COVID-19 test kits to its residents when they were available to the board. However, at the end of the year, COVID-19 and its variants were on the rise.

Flu Vaccination Clinics were conducted in coordination with the board and the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health. The board continued their partnership with the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health meeting four times/year and looking to the future with all the towns to find ways for additional shared components.

The board has representation on the Waste & Recycling Committee studying trash and recycling for the future.

Our Town Nurse, Anne Marie Muckenstrom, has been a great asset to the board and has assisted not only the schools but our residents as well. She continues to search for items to ensure the general health for our population and continues to work with the Boroughs on behalf of the board.

Once again, the Sharps Drop Off program continues to be a huge success as we manage this growing medical waste in our community. This program has seen an increase every year since its inception and the board is glad to see them removed from our waste stream.

The second apartment building construction began, and along with it, another large septic system which is starting to become commonplace and requires more evaluation in Zone 2.

The board also continued to work with the Massachusetts Central Mass Mosquito Control Program and the state Department of Public Health to educate residents on mosquito borne diseases. The CMMCP continues its ditch digging, brush cutting, mosquito trapping and other source reduction within the borders of our town.

Fees collected during 2023 amounted to \$30,050,00. Fees were derived from the following number of activities:

BASE OF OPERATION PERMITS – 43	SEPTAGE HAULER PERMITS – 12
CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE – 19	SEPTIC INSTALLER’S PERMITS – 27
COMPONENT REPAIR PERMITS – 8	SOIL TESTING – 18
CONSTRUCTION PERMITS – 23	SWIMMING/WADING POOL PERMITS – 2
FOOD PERMITS – 23	TOBACCO SALES PERMITS – 6
MOBILE FOOD PERMITS – 10	TRASH HAULER PERMITS – 5
PLANS REVIEWED – 17	WELL PERMITS – 3

During the year, the Board held eleven (11) Regular Meetings with the meeting attendance as follows: Sarah Barrette 11; Robert Thibeault 10; John Wentzell 9; Dennis Costello (Health Agent) 11.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Health

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging currently meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 PM, except for July and August when no meeting is held. This represents a time change that the board voted on so we could meet earlier in the day. All are welcome to attend, and all meetings are recorded and available for view on the local WBAC cable channel. Meetings are held in the COA office located in the lower level of the Town House in the rear of the building where we graciously share space with the American Legion. We have maintained our 8 voting members board along with a COA coordinator and Assistant Coordinator. At the beginning of the year, the board was faced with finding a new coordinator which took about 5 months, but lasted only a couple of months as the person hired did not feel it met her expectations, so she resigned. This resulted in the board reviewing what our expectations for the coordinator were and what qualifications we felt necessary for the person in that position. This resulted in the board offering the full-time position to Kathy Lohnes who had been temporarily filling in, in addition to continuing to be the van scheduler. We are grateful to Kathy for a job well done over those 5 to 6 months and she clearly earned the support of the Boylston community who expressed this to the board. Importantly the town reclassified and renamed the positions to coordinator and assistant coordinator and changed their job grades. We then needed to find someone for the assistant position whose prime responsibility was scheduling van rides. We were fortunate to hire Donna LoConte, a retired physical therapist who lives in town and was eager to help our older adults. She has made a seem less transition into this position and taken on other duties quite willingly. She has also provided other insights to the board from her own past professional career. Lastly it should be mentioned that Kathy was nominated then named Boylston's Citizen of the Year by the American Legion Post this past May, further evidence of her hard work and dedication to the senior citizens in Boylston.

We continue to be funded through the municipal budget and by state funding provided through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) via a formula grant which gives a fixed amount of money for each town resident 60 and over via the current state census. We have seen an increase in this funding as the state census now reports we have 1,334 residents, over 60 about 500 more than they had for the past 10 years. It should be noted that the Town Clerk reports number to be 1,626 which is 32% of town population. In addition to these two primary funding sources residents can voluntarily contribute a donation for activities they attend, and we also have received donations from various families. We keep these funds in a separate account that can be used when necessary for services and needs that directly affect an elderly resident. Town funding continues to be used for the two staff salaries and van expenses and driver salaries. It also provides funds to the Senior Citizen society that they can use for trips and special events, it provides monies we can contribute to Elder Services of Worcester for the cost of meals at meal site and home delivered meals and it also pays for expenses associated with bi-monthly newsletter sent to all senior households. EOEA funding has focused on program costs, specifically fitness programs which include Tai Chi; Flex & Tone; Zumba Gold; Strength & Stamina; Mindfulness Yoga. All are in-person at townhouse, a couple are also on zoom. No fee is required but a donation is appreciated. COA costs are for instructors. Participation in these has been steady and growing. We also pay for My Senior Center software which helps track program

Council on Aging

participation and van scheduling. We also pay for membership in Mass Council on Aging Association, which has helpful conferences and support.

Van continues to be available Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. All rides need to be scheduled 48 hours in advance. This year we had 1,433 rides for 48 different seniors. We received additional municipal funding for its operation which was appreciated. We currently have 3 drivers who provide this service. COA again worked with Boylston Fire Dept for home safety visits, Boylston Police initiated an “Are You OK” program which provides a wellness phone call to seniors at a designated time to make sure all is well. Greater Borough’s Partnership provided blood pressure clinics and Narcan training. Town nurse met with COA to offer her availability to homebound seniors. Pitch and Cribbage card games have continued on Thursdays and COA coordinator continues to do a weekly email to any senior who has provided COA with email address to notify them of weekly services, events and social happenings. Drop-In Tech Help sessions were initiated and info regarding SHINE volunteer appointments for Medicare Open Enrollment and other insurance questions was made available. COA has also begun to develop a list of Elder Law/Estate Planning attorneys in the area who might be helpful to seniors and we also have an assortment of durable medical equipment for loan

The council sponsored a volunteer appreciation lunch in the Spring for all who help us operate, funded by EOEA funds. Their help is invaluable to us. Bigelow’s Nursery donated a plant to all that came. We also need to thank the Boylston Public Library for use of space, the town highway department for van maintenance, Police and Fire departments for all their assistance and education for seniors and finance department for listening and understanding our needs and providing additional funding when requested and able. We also want to thank Lions Club for sponsoring Senior Turkey Dinner and donating Xmas gift cards and the Wachusett Rotary for turkeys donated at Thanksgiving. We also appreciate all the community support we receive.

Our most salient need is a dedicated space for us to operate all aspects of our mission. We need a place for seniors to gather and interact that is safe and nurturing. COA has been involved with a feasibility study committee exploring improvements in public safety buildings and creating a senior center. Recently an opportunity to explore the renovation of the John B Gough House to be used as senior center arose, selectmen approved a request for design services and an architectural firm with experience in repurposing historic buildings was chosen and some initial designs have been made. This is exciting and we are hopeful but it will need approval of the town at the town meeting once all aspects of design and cost are determined. I mention this now so that residents in town realize the importance of this to allow the growing aging population, many of whom have lived here their whole lives, be given a chance to age in place. They have paid their taxes, supported new schools and housing, business development, raised their families, cared for their grandchildren and now need something to help be safe, healthy and prosperous. I hope people can appreciate their sacrifice.

Council on Aging

We continue to maintain our office Monday thru Thursday, messages can be left by phone 508-869-6022, van can be scheduled at 508-869-6132 and emails sent to coa@boylston-ma.gov. Our mission is to keep older adults safe, informed and as independent as possible. Ideas and feedback appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis E. Goguen, Chairperson, Boylston Council on Aging

ADA Committee

The ADA Committee did not meet in 2023. The Board is currently reorganizing.

The Mass Office on Disability works to ensure that all people with disabilities can have equal participation in all areas of life. For more information on the Mass Office on Disability, please go to <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability>. The Mass Department of Conversation and Recreation promotes a Universal Access Program. More information about this program can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/universal-access-program>.

If Boylston residents feel that they are facing any barriers based on their disability, please reach out to the ADA Committee at 221 Main St, Boylston, MA 01505.

Respectfully Submitted,

Boylston ADA Committee

Cemetery Commission

Routine maintenance and upkeep is performed at Pine Grove Cemetery by employees of the Highway Department. This includes mowing, weeding, trimming, removal of overgrown shrubs, damaged bushes and snow plowing. Other related duties include lay out plots and prepare for burials, pour foundations for monuments and sell Cemetery lots.

In 2023 there were a total of 31 burials. This included 13 full burials and 18 cremation burials.

In addition to burials, 17 cemetery lots were sold.

The Cemetery Commission meets on the 3rd Monday each month. Chair Don Parker and Barbara Seed served as board members. Steve Mero Cemetery Superintendent

Roger Wentzell resigned from the Commission after years of invaluable service. Roger was dedicated to the work of the Commission and provided a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We thank him for all his contributions.

We would like to thank Deb Fuller for filling the open position. She was appointed by the Selectman as an interim Commissioner

We officially welcomed Barbara Seed as a board member to the Commission this year.

On Saturday December 19th 2023, Pine Grove Cemetery and the Old Cemetery in the center of town hosted Wreaths Across America. A wreath was placed on 574 Veteran's graves that day. The mission, REMEMBER the fallen, HONOR those who serve and TEACH the next generation the value of Freedom was carried out that day. Thank you to all the Volunteers to help make the day a success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven R Mero

Steven R Mero, Cemetery Superintendent

Food Pantry

The Board of Christian Outreach of the First Congregational Church along with help from St. Mary of the Hills continue to operate the Food Pantry here in Boylston. We extend our deepest thanks to the many wonderful folks who so generously support us with food, money and time. We carry a wide variety of non-perishable food as well as an assortment of pre-packaged cold cuts. Since we are only open one day a week, we are unable to carry prepared meals. We are located in the lower level of the Town Hall and are open for all Boylston residents every Monday from 10:00 AM to noon or if you need a different time, please call the Church office at (508) 869-2027 and we will set up a special appointment and/or a delivery for you.

Our purpose is to serve all who need a little help and we don't want to see anyone go hungry when there is plenty of support here in Town. Just let the Pantry folks know and we will take care of you. Blessings to you all.

Carla Peterson

WACHUSETT EARTHDAY, INC - FY2023

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

Total collections:	2022 - 118	2023 - 120
Total vehicles served:	2022 - 24,259	2023 - 25,026

Total of materials received in the Reuse Building in FY2023 and kept out of the seven towns' waste streams:

<u>Collection Days</u>	<u>Total Boxes</u>	<u>Total Pounds</u>	<u>Average boxes/day</u>	<u>Average pounds/day</u>	<u>Average pounds/box</u>	<u>No Good</u>
120	14,276	225,665	120	1,884	16	8%

Total waste and recycling volumes:

Year	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Tons	634	589.3

Numbers above do not include any items taken by residents, books to More Than Words, furniture to furniture banks, redeemables to the boy scouts, 1027 refrigerants, 1140 gallons of latex paint, 1168 tires, 457 propane tanks, 67 fire extinguishers, or 1685 mattresses.

Special Collections: We held no hazardous waste and two shredding events this past fiscal year. In 2023 we'll be holding two hazardous waste days and three shredding events. In 2024 two hazardous waste events are scheduled for April 27 and Oct 26 from 9am to 1pm. Three shredding events are scheduled for May 18, August 17, and October 21 from 9am to noon.

WACHUSETT EARTHDAY, INC – FY2023

Sales of premium reuse items continue to provide a revenue cushion which allows WEI to maintain relatively level disposal costs. Fee increases occurred only when necessary to cover an increase in the fees we were charged. Hazardous waste processing and disposal continue to be challenging as most major processors are offline due to safety issues and/or fires. Our tire hauler too experienced a fire which resulted in our fees going up. We anticipate ongoing challenges as places to send our unwanted tons of material dwindle.

We now have two part time paid employees: Mark Koslowske continues as our Operations Manager managing all things site related and Norma Chanis started in February as the Executive Director focusing on volunteers, communication, outreach, relationships and education. Both are also working on consideration of new services and improvements such as the building of a pavilion to allow for greater furniture salvage. A DEP Recycling Business Development grant will fund half of that project.

The partnerships that have been nurtured with multiple local social service and charitable organizations continue to thrive and expand. WEI continues to work with Household Goods (Acton) and Fresh Start (Hudson) Furniture Banks as well as various local groups working with refugees. Textile collection bins have increased with the addition of two bins for Helpsy.

The number of teachers coming from multiple towns within Worcester County continues to expand. We continue to be a location for schools/organizations looking for skill improvement tasks for people with disabilities and significant life challenges. Students from WPI and employees from a variety of local businesses are finding volunteering with us to be a worthwhile use of their volunteer hours.

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

Holiday closings in 2024: July 4, November 28, December 24 and 25.

2023 Board of Directors:

Holden: William Cronin, Ronaldo Lu, Patt Popple, Mark Koslowske, Operations Manager; **Princeton:** Helen Townsend, President; **Rutland:** Connie Burr, Michael Kacprzicki, Treasurer; **Sterling:** Susan Farr, Vice President; **West Boylston:** Norma Chanis, Clerk & Executive Director

Respectfully submitted, Norma Chanis and Helen Townsend

CY2023 Annual Recycling Survey

Town of Boylston

CY2023 Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Survey

WWRRRC numbers based on town participation

Cars	1258
Participation	4.8%

Section 10. Recycling / Composted Tonnage

Single Stream Recycling	0 tons
comingled containers	0.1 tons
mixed paper	0.6 tons
corrugated cardboard	1.8 tons
Newspaper (only)	0.0 tons
Glass (only)	0.0 tons
Bulky plastics	1,546 lbs
Scrap Metal/Large Appliances	9,925 lbs
Textiles/Used Clothing	670 lbs
Wood	0
Mattresses	69 pcs
Food Waste	0
Yard Waste	0
E-waste	3,809 lbs
Mixed C&D waste	16,551 lbs

Section 12.

2 HHP collections scheduled

Section 11. Frequency of Recycling Opportunities

Auto Batteries	Year round
Auto Tires	Year round
TV's and Computers	Year round
Other Electronics	Year round
Waste/Used engine oil	2 times
Household batteries	Year round
Lithium batteries	Year round
Propane tanks (1 pound)	Year round
Propane tanks (20 pound)	Year round
Anti-freeze	2 times
Used oil filters	2 times
Latex based paint	< 6 times
Oil based paint	2 times
Fluorescent Lamps/CFL's	Year round
Thermostats	Year round
Thermometers	Year round
Other products mercury	Year round
Expanded Polystyrene	Year round
Medical Waste/Sharps	NO
Textiles	Year round
Bulky rigid plastics	Year round
Books/Media	Year round
Plastic film	NO
Fire extinguishers	Year round
Reusable furniture and household goods	Year round
String Lights / Xmas lights	Year round

Planning Board

Regular meetings of the Planning Board are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Public hearings on subdivision procedures or special permit applications are scheduled on regular meeting nights whenever possible. The Board encourages informational meetings with individuals and builders to discuss matters of concern or interest.

On January 9, 2023, the Board consisted of Kim Ames, Chair, Peter Caruso, Vice-Chair, Corinna Javier, Clerk, Homaira Naseem and Mark Johnson. In June 2023, Mr. Caruso was re-elected. Mr. Johnson was voted as Chair, Ms. Ames was voted as Vice-Chair, and Ms. Javier was voted as the Clerk. Mr. Baker was appointed as an Associate Member by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Caruso was voted as the delegate to the Affordable Housing Committee and Mr. Johnson was voted as the delegate to the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

The Board held 10 regular meetings and 5 Executive Session meetings in 2023. Members' attendance was as follows:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Meetings (10)</u>	<u>Executive Session (5)</u>
Ames	9	5
Caruso	10	5
Javier	10	5
Johnson	10	5
Naseem	8	4
Baker	4	1

Below is a summary of the Planning Board's actions:

ANR Plans (3)

38 Main Street/Masiello (Lot Merger)

168 School Street/85 Sewall LLC (Boundary Line Adjustment)

Barnard Hill Estates/ Parcel M (Parcel Creation for Conveyance to Abutter)

Site Plans (3)

220 East Temple Street - Keith's Music

100 (a.k.a.90) Shrewsbury Street – Trailside Commercial Building

211 Mile Hill Road - Summer Star Sanctuary

Special Permits (6)

220 East Temple Street – Keith's Music (for use in Residential Overlay District)

80 Pine Hill Drive - Northbridge Partners (Sign)

750 Main Street – Kevin Allen (Change of Use in Heritage District)

100 (a.k.a.90) Shrewsbury Street - Trailside (Impervious Surface)

270 Shrewsbury Street – Yatco (Sign)

8 Gulf Street (Senior Residential Development)

Planning Board

Subdivisions (1)

22 Diamond Hill Avenue (WKS Subdivision – 3 lots)

Respectfully submitted, Mark Johnson, Chair

Conservation Commission

In 2023 the Conservation Commission held twelve (12) Regular Meetings and two (2) Special Meetings. Numerous informal site visits were conducted as follow-up to ongoing projects, and at the request of other town boards and residents, as well as several scheduled site visits.

This year, twenty-six (26) legal documents were issued in conjunction with the Commission's responsibility to administer the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, and Town Bylaws. They consisted of 4 Determinations of Applicability, 8 Order of Conditions, 1 Amended Order of Conditions, 2 Stormwater Permits, 7 Certificates of Compliance and 4 Partial Certificates of Compliance.

The Commission continued to permit and monitor ongoing construction at the Barnard Hill, Longley Hill, Pine Street and Compass Point developments. This year also saw continuing work on several large Commercial projects along Route 140, and several projects at Tower Hill Botanical Garden. We completed permitting of an apartment complex off of Shrewsbury Street and Sewall Street, and Lilymere Estates (an over-55 development on Sewall Street), as well as many individual lots and sub-developments.

The Commission continued work with the Department of Public Works, and other town boards, to remain in Compliance with Federal and State Regulations concerning Stormwater Management and will be considering revising our Stormwater Regulations in 2024.

In June, Lucas Rose joined the Commission as the newest member and, in July, Chip Burkhardt resigned from Commission to further his education.

Reorganization of the Commission was as follows: Mark Coakley will be Chair and Jeff Walsh will be Vice Chair. Mark Coakley will remain as the representative on the Earth Removal Board; Joe McGrath will remain on the Stormwater Committee with Lucas Rose joining; and Jeff Walsh will be the representative on the Master Planning Steering Committee.

Attendance for all Commission Meetings were as follows: Joe McGrath-14; Ron Aspero-14; Mark Coakley-13; Jeff Walsh-9; Chip Burkhardt-9; Lucas Rose-7.

We would like to thank the residents of Boylston, the Selectmen, and the town boards for their continued support and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted by the Conservation Commission.

Zoning Board of Appeals

In 2023, the Zoning Board of Appeals held three (3) hearings.

The Board held a public hearing of an Appeal on February 13, 2023, for 88 Stiles Road for a Telecommunications Tower of an approval of a permit issued by the Building Inspector to construct a new tower. The Board denied the appeal by a vote of 4-1.

On November 27, 2023, the Board held hearings for a Finding on 211 Mile Hill Road for Summer Star Wildlife to modify a pre-existing non-conforming structure. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the Finding for 211 Mile Hill and that the change in non-conformity from a large residential structure located 7.4 feet from the road to a 25-foot setback requirement to a smaller educational structure is not more detrimental to the neighborhood.

The Board held a hearing for a Variance for 26 Boulder Way to separate two lots from one another. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the Variance to separate lots and thus, creating a separate lot for each existing structure.

Mr. Filsinger was voted by the Board to serve as Chairman and Ms. Lombardi was voted by the Board to serve as the ZBA representative to the Earth Removal Board and the Affordable Housing Committee.

Attendance at ZBA hearings in 2023 was as follows:

Date	Filsinger		Murphy		Cotter		Lombardi		Wyatt	
	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent
2/13/23	X		X		X		X		X	
11/27/23	X		X		X		X			X

The Zoning Board of Appeals can be contacted by calling Bill Filsinger at 508-869-6950 or via e-mail at wfilsinger372@gmail.com. The Zoning Board of Appeals can also be reached by calling the Building Department at 508-869-6064.

Any written requests may be addressed to the ZBA Chairman at 221 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505.

William Filsinger, Chairman

Earth Removal Board

The Earth Removal Board meets as needed to issue permits, review projects, review complaints and issue new directives to current permit holders.

The Board was reorganized as follows: Chair-Jamie Underwood (Board of Selectmen representative), Vice Chair-Janet Lombardi (Zoning Board of Appeals representative), Mark Coakley (Conservation Commission representative), John Wentzell (Board of Health representative), and Homaira Naseem (Planning Board representative). Ms. Naseem resigned from the Board in June and was replaced by Kim Ames (Planning Board representative).

The Board met two (2) times in 2023. Members Attendance was:

Ames - 2
Coakley - 2
Lombardi - 2
Underwood - 1
Wentzell - 2

The Board held a public hearing for 313 Main Street. The applicant is constructing two Industrial Buildings. A permit was approved and issued by a Vote of 5-0.

The Board held a public hearing for 219 Sewall Street for a renewal of a prior Earth Removal Permit where duplexes are being constructed. Due to a discrepancy with an abutter, the hearing was continued until November 15, 2023. That meeting was cancelled and has not been rescheduled at this time.

As part of the Board's purpose, the public is urged to contact the Board through the Office of the Building Department, if a violation of the permit is suspected. This is to particularly prevent debris left on Town roadways, uncovered loads, or the removal of banned materials. Board fees are established to benefit the Town's General Fund to be pinpointed for the wear and tear on Town roads by trucking projects.

The Earth Removal Board may be contacted by calling the Building Department at 508-869-6064.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Underwood, Chairman

Wiring Inspector

The total number of Electrical permits issued was 262. All applications were accepted, inspected and completed in a timely manner. Permit fees totaling \$70, 884.00 were collected and turned over to the Town Treasurer.

Please visit the Building Department on the town website at boylston-ma.gov and use online permitting, **Permit Pro**, for all applications.

To schedule an inspection, please call the Wiring Inspector at 774-261-3961.

John McQuade
Wiring Inspector

Mike O'Sullivan
Assistant Wiring Inspector 978-549-2662

Gas and Plumbing Inspector

The total number of Gas and Plumbing permits issued was 231. All applications were accepted, inspected and completed in a timely manner. Permit fees totaling \$47,380.00 were collected and turned over to the Town Treasurer.

The Assistant Inspector, Brian Gaucher and myself have completed all necessary continuing education courses and have taken the required OSHA courses.

My hours are as needed, preferably Monday through Friday from 12 - 4. Please leave a message to schedule an inspection at 508-688-0613.

Please visit the Building Department on the town website at boylston-ma.gov and use online permitting, **Permit Pro**, for all applications.

Eric Johnson
Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector
Brian Gaucher-774-261-0991

Alternate Plumbing and Gas Inspector
Jeremiah Johnson

Building Inspector

The total number of Building Permits issued was 269. The total value of the permits was \$28,636,353.00 and the total permit fees collected were \$455,824.00.

The Breakdown is as follows:

Residential

New Single-Family Homes/Foundation Only	7
Two-Family Homes	0
Additions/Renovations	84
Minor Repair/Miscellaneous	73
Demo Building	0
HVAC	29

Commercial

Multi Family/Apartments	64
New Buildings/Foundation Only	1
Renovations/Miscellaneous	1
Demo	1
HVAC	9

Certificates Issued

Certificate of Occupancy/Completion
304 Certificate Inspections

Total funds received for Certificates-

The Building Department is open Monday-Thursday from 8-2 and Monday evening from 6-8 p.m. The Building Inspector is available Monday during the day and Monday evening, Tuesday morning, Wednesday and Thursday. The Building Department phone number is 508-869-6064. The Building Inspector can be reached at 508-869-0143 ext. 227.

Please visit the Building Department Website for information regarding applications and fees. Please use our online permitting, Permit Pro, for all permit applications.

Tony Zahariadis
Building Inspector



BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORTS 2023

JANUARY 1, 2023
BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
215 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01503
Phone: 508-869-2837

Berlin-Boylston Regional Transition School Committee

Mission & Vision Statement: Berlin-Boylston Regional School District

Our Mission: To support and challenge all students to achieve personal and academic excellence in a student-centered environment.

Our Vision: The Berlin-Boylston Public Schools will create a challenging learning environment to ensure that all students exhibit continuous improvement and pursue personal excellence and become active, engaged, independent learners and decision makers. As an inclusive school community, instruction will be provided in a caring, safe, and healthy learning environment, responsive to each student, in collaboration with families and the community.

It is our privilege to present the 2023 Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee annual report. The members of this board, along with our supportive community, continue to maximize each dollar invested in our schools and the children they support. As we move into 2024 with an amazing staff and leadership in Superintendent Carol Costello, we are confident in our ongoing goals to provide a quality education and school experience.

Organization

This year, the Committee was first led by Chair Michael Totman, and then by Chair Meagan Grill who assumed the Chair position after the annual election for Chair held in November. Meagan Grill began the year as Vice Chair, but after the November election, Julie Lee assumed the Vice Chair position. Members were Lori-Anne Hart who also served as District Clerk, Jessica Degliaberti and Robert Holmes. In January, Robert Holmes resigned, and Lisa Mair joined the Committee in March.

Subcommittees have gone through a transition period this year. Earlier in the year our Policy Subcommittee was chaired by Lori-Anne Hart, but Michael Totman took over as Chair in December. With the resignation of Robert Holmes and the addition of Lisa Mair, Jessica Degliaberti became the Chair of the Student Success Subcommittee and Lisa Mair became a member. After Meagan Grill became Chair of the Committee in November, she left the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee.

As of December 31, 2023, the subcommittees are:

- A. Budget, Facilities, and Safety – Chair Meagan Grill, member Julie Lee
- B. Student Success and Technology – Chair Jessica Degliaberti, member Lisa Mair
- C. Policy, Personnel, Negotiations and School Committee Effectiveness – Chair Michael Totman, member Lori-Anne Hart
- D. Superintendent Evaluation - Chair Lori-Anne Hart, member Jessica Degliaberti

Principals and Curriculum Directors

During 2023, the district was fortunate enough to hire two wonderful principals. Cynthia Sykes stepped in as Principal of Boylston Elementary School in July and Lisa Sequeira took over at Tahanto in July as well. The district hired two assistant principals in July for Tahanto; Richard Cameron and Renee Legendre. John Campbell continues to run Berlin Memorial School in addition to taking over as Curriculum Director for grades K-5. Sally Stukuls became the Curriculum Director for grades 6-12.

Superintendent

Superintendent Carol Costello began 2023 as the Acting Superintendent of the District, after the abrupt departure of Superintendent Zanghi in December of 2022. In July, Ms. Costello officially took over as Superintendent of Schools for the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District. Ms. Costello presented the Committee with three robust goals in September for the 2023-2024 school year. She plans to grow her new administrative team with a focus on instructional leadership, spend more time in the community working with the various outreach organizations and work with her mentor to deepen her knowledge of regional school systems and budget processes.

Scholarships

The Moses Reed Tyler Scholarship enabled the School Committee to award 9 academic scholarships to institutions of higher learning for qualified Berlin residents in June of 2023. The fund allowed \$20,552 to be distributed evenly to all nine students who each received \$2,284. The Committee remains grateful for the legacy of Mr. Tyler and to Julie Lee for serving as the liaison between both committees, as well as John Campbell, Carol Young and Rich Mariani for serving on the Scholarship Subcommittee.

Meetings and Attendance

In 2023, the Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee held 16 posted meetings. Lisa Mair was appointed in March 2023 after the resignation of Robert Holmes in January. All other members had been members prior to January 1, 2023. Attendance for these meetings is listed below.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Note</u>
Jessica Degliaberti	Boylston	16	
Meagan Grill	Boylston	16	

Julie Lee	Berlin	16	
Michael Totman	Berlin	16	
Lori-Anne Hart	Boylston	14	
Lisa Mair	Berlin	14	Appointed March, 2023
Robert Holmes	Berlin	1	Resigned Jan, 2023

Student Population

In the last year, we saw 1,112 students enroll districtwide including pre-school. This is a 1.2% increase over last year and is 5.6% higher than enrollment during the 2021-2022 school year.

Both towns continue to see robust growth in residential housing, and with additional housing comes a higher student population. The Committee is beginning to discuss necessary changes as our population grows. Our District Improvement Plan and budget request reflect some of these ideas, specifically the need for additional teaching and support staff.

The Committee and school administration remain very conservative in recommending and approving additional school choice slots to ensure a balance between maintaining target class sizes and taking advantage of potential school choice revenue, while avoiding the need for additional staffing.

Community Support

The Committee, the school administration, teachers, staff and students greatly appreciate the continued strong support and commitment provided by the residents of Boylston and Berlin for our public schools. As we know, the fabric of the community is built in our youth and the community’s sustained generosity and support allow us to develop great kids.

The Boylston Education Foundation (BEF), Boylston Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Tahanto Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Berlin LINK, and Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) continue to provide fundraising activities and community enrichment programs. Their work goes beyond funds. Their commitments and ongoing efforts to work together as groups during these unprecedented times continue to shine.

Financial

The Committee and school administration want to highlight the collaboration efforts between the school district, the Boylston and Berlin Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees and Town Administrators, who worked together to achieve a budget that is affordable for our towns and meets the educational needs of our students. For the first time in many years, the budget put forth by the School Committee was higher than the budget recommended by the town Finance Committee. As a result, there was a strong turnout at town meetings so residents could voice support and concerns about the school budget. The School Committee budget passed with greater than a 2/3 majority.

The school administration is still working on the FY 2025 budget and the Committee plans to review the preliminary budget on February 27th, 2024. The administration and Committee opted to hold off on reviewing the budget until February as substantial budget components like Chapter 70 funding, school choice numbers, insurance and energy costs, and other contracts are yet to be finalized.

Looking Forward

Last year was filled with significant change for the BBRSD. We welcomed a new Superintendent, two new Principals, two new Assistant Principals, two new Curriculum Directors, a new School Committee member, as well as multiple new teachers and staff. In the upcoming year we are first and foremost focusing on providing an excellent academic experience for our students, by working with the towns and to build a budget that will allow growth and improvement, as well as reviewing current policies to make sure we are centered on equity and accountability. We are hoping to make some significant facility improvements during 2024 as well. The Committee will continue to work closely with Superintendent Costello to achieve these goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Grill, Chair
Julie Lee, Vice Chair
Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk
Lisa Mair
Michael Totman
Jessica Degliaberti

Berlin-Boylston Regional School District Superintendent of Schools

It is an honor to submit my annual report on behalf of the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District. In these challenging times, we remain committed to providing an excellent education to all of our students. We are grateful to the staff members who bring quality teaching and learning experiences into our classrooms each day, and to the parents and community members who support us in our roles.

Continued Transitions and Transformation

The hiring of new administrators throughout the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District has brought a sense of revitalization and rejuvenation to our schools and community. In the summer of 2023, we welcomed Ms. Lisa Sequeira into the role of Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Principal. Ms. Sequeira previously served as a classroom science teacher and Science Department Chair at Tahanto. She was joined by Mr. Richard Cameron as an assistant principal, and Mrs. Renee Legendre as assistant principal. Boylston Elementary School welcomed Mrs. Cinthia Sykes as their new principal. Ms. Sally Stukuls, the former assistant principal and interim principal at Tahanto, became the new Director of Curriculum and Grants for grades 6-12. Mr. John Campbell, veteran principal at Berlin Memorial School, assumed the responsibility of Elementary Curriculum Coordinator in addition to his current role. Each of these educators bring to the table a history of demonstrated strong leadership and shared values. In turn, we are collectively working together to strengthen culture. Our motto: “Better together. Stronger together.”

Envisioning the Future

As we prepare our students to move on from the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District to college, careers, and their adult life, we must continuously ask ourselves as educators, what skills and strategies they will need to become productive citizens in today’s world and for the future. This fall, volunteers from our staff, students, administration, parents and community members joined together to develop *A Portrait of a Graduate*, representing our collective vision for the 21st century skills, character traits, and social-emotional competencies that students will need to be successful in these critical areas of life. The work of this committee continues into the spring of 2024, with the intention of launching our district vision of a *Portrait of a Graduate* and preparing for the development of a district-wide Strategic Plan during the 2024-2025 school year.

Enrollment Updates

We are continuously monitoring our enrollment numbers at each of the three schools as our communities continue to grow. Between October 2022 and October 2023, Berlin Memorial School saw a 1% increase (2 students); Boylston Elementary School saw no increase; and Tahanto Regional Middle/High School had a 7% (39 students) increase.

In closing, we remain deeply appreciative of the continued support for our public schools in the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District, and invite our broader community to join with us as we continue to grow learners who are prepared for their future in this ever-changing world.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Costello, Superintendent of Schools

Business Office Update

Throughout this year, the persistent labor shortage nationwide posed ongoing challenges. While there were signs of improvement in transportation and food services starting in July 2023, filling positions in student services remained difficult. Despite these challenges, we are grateful for our committed administration, faculty, and staff who went above and beyond to support our students, ensuring they received a high-quality education.

In the realm of food service, the USDA continued its initiative of providing free breakfast and lunches. Thanks to the efforts of our Food Service Director, nutritional meals remained accessible to students.

<u>School</u>	<u>Berlin Memorial</u>	<u>Boylston Elementary</u>	<u>Tahanto Middle/High</u>
FY22 Budget	\$3,958,496	\$4,352,652	\$9,646,221
FY23 Budget	\$4,182,505	\$4,797,548	\$10,127,558
\$ Increase	\$224,009	\$444,896	\$481,337
% Increase	6%	10%	5%

Berlin Memorial Elementary

The FY23 budget was \$4,182,505, reflecting a \$224,009 increase, 6% higher than the FY22 budget. The key contributors include a rise in Out-Of-District Tuition and Transportation costs by \$163,000, the addition of a Literacy/ELA Coach for \$59,000 and Level Service Increases.

Boylston Elementary

The FY23 budget was \$4,797,548, reflecting a \$444,896 increase, 10% higher than the FY22 budget. The key contributors include a rise in Out-of-District Tuition and Transportation costs by \$201,000, the addition of a Math Coach for \$48,000, a Literacy/ELA Coach for \$53,000, and a \$79,000 increase for Health Care Plan benefit costs, along with Level Service Increases.

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School

The FY23 budget was \$10,127,558, reflecting a \$481,337 increase, 5% above the FY22 budget. The key contributors were \$17,000 for Entry Access/Security Improvements, \$15,000 for HVAC RTU Motor Replacements and Level Service Increases.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Konisky, Director of Finance and Operations

Department of Pupil Personnel Services

Submitting an annual report for the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District is an honor. We remain committed to providing equitable and excellent educational experiences for all our students.

Berlin-Boylston Regional School District	First Language Not English	English Language Learner	Students with Disabilities	Economically disadvantaged	High Needs
DESE data as of 1/1/2024	12.8%	2.8%	18.2%	17.4%	32.2%

Although improved from 2022, In 2023, Berlin-Boylston and other school communities continued to experience higher staff turnover rates than in pre-pandemic years. Pupil Personnel Services welcomed Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), adjustment counselors, paraprofessionals, special education teachers, and a special education coordinator to the district in 2023.

COVID-19 testing and monitoring requirements in our schools changed considerably in 2023. All related programs have been discontinued, including Contact Tracing, Test and Stay, At-Home Testing, and Symptomatic Testing programs for students and staff.

District-wide mental health support for our students remains a priority area. Each school has a full-time School Psychologist. Boylston Elementary School has a part-time Adjustment Counselor, and Tahanto has a full-time and part-time Adjustment Counselor and two School Counselors. In 2023 the district added a second BCBA to support our students and schools. Family Success Partnership (FSP) services are available through the district when families and students require innovative, collaborative, and preventative wraparound services for student success.

Our community of multilingual learners continues to thrive. New students who need English Language services have moved into the district, and other students have successfully passed the state Access tests and no longer need services. Portuguese continues to be the most prevalent home language. Additional languages spoken in the homes of our multilingual families are Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese (Mandarin), Farsi, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Khmer, Korean, Macedonian, Pashto, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Telugu, Thai, Twi, Ukrainian, and Urdu.

Respectfully submitted,

Jannel Fitzpatrick, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12

Grants

Grants that have been awarded to the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District this year were the ESSA Title I, IIA, and IV grants that award funds from DESE. Title I services provide students with literacy or math support, fund online professional development to staff through companies such as Massachusetts Partnership for Youth, Primary Source, and The Art of Education, and also fund consultant work.

We have also earned grant funds to pay for monthly healthy snack delivery for staff at all three schools, grants to support our computer science curriculum work, and a donation from Unibank to help fund our Portrait of a Graduate Initiative. Several other grant applications have been applied for and are currently awaiting approval.

Professional Development

We have had several full and early release professional development sessions for all staff that have provided them with strategies for instruction in the classroom. Among these offerings include: scaffolding, data analysis and curriculum development. Educators have also had the opportunity for training in AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the classroom, using the MA Department of Education's new IEP (Individualized Education Plan) forms, using ATLAS Rubicon as a repository for curriculum, Safety Care Training, meeting students' needs through the MA Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), *Foundations* training, Movement for students, and working with English Learners.

Curriculum Review

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School is currently reviewing the English department curriculum and examining samples for new textbooks to be purchased next year. The counseling department has been working toward the implementation of a Social-Emotional Learning curriculum. With the introduction of a new health curriculum frameworks released from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education this past fall, we have started to review the updated standards as we prepare to incorporate them into the current curriculum moving forward.

Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee has been meeting monthly to revise our existing wellness policy. We have had the pleasure of working in collaboration with DESE and Framingham State University professors and coaches to develop a thorough policy which will be completed by spring 2024.

Scheduling Committee

The Scheduling committee has been meeting monthly to look at various scheduling models in an effort to overcome scheduling obstacles that are typical in small middle/high schools where staff

is shared between the middle and high school. Efforts are being made to make the schedule easier to read, to provide more time for staff collaboration, to provide support to students in need, and to align with our developing Job Shadow and Internship Program scheduled to begin in the fall of 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally-Ann Stukuls, Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12

Technology Coordinator

What began as a necessity in 2020 due to COVID-19, became the backbone of how we utilize technology throughout the district. Teachers and students having access to 1:1 devices, without having to reserve or schedule for said devices. Making the use of technology more seamless in everyday instruction has come to be the norm for our district. These devices, predominantly Chromebooks for students, allow our teachers to access on-line support materials that many of our paid curriculum materials include. These on-line resources provide the teacher with the opportunity to differentiate lessons for their students by providing the practice of a skill for those students that may be struggling with a concept while also providing challenge problems for those students that have already mastered the basics.

As part of the FY24 budget, our towns provided capital money for us to continue to maintain and improve our current inventory of 1:1 devices. The capital articles allowed us to purchase and prepare 90 Chromebooks for Berlin Memorial School, 105 Chromebooks for Boylston Elementary and 120 Chromebooks and 85 laptops for Tahanto Regional.

A majority of our Summer work again revolved around 1:1 devices including the re-inventory of all our Chromebooks and redistribution of them into charging carts at the elementary level, and preparing new Chromebooks for distribution for the incoming sixth grade at Tahanto. We also prepped the 85 laptops for use at the high school. As part of the capital request, new copy machines were installed and configured at all three schools. These newer machines allow for better tracking of printing/copying costs.

A new phone system, replacing an aging system at Central Office, was installed in August in time for the start of the new school year. The new system allows for greater control of communications in the building as well as providing easier access to communications in emergency situations. Greater access to voicemail was also added with the new system. Work on a new District website has begun and will be completed in early 2024.

In the Engineering/Tech Lab at Tahanto, two new 3D printers were installed and configured in December. These devices allow the technology teaching staff to create real-time prototypes across the various technology courses. We again thank our two towns for supporting these initiatives through capital funding special articles.

Jet Engine Parts Prototypes from Engineering Club

In the Spring of 2023 we worked with the Town of Boylston to submit a grant proposal as part of the Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant. In June, the town received notice that it had been awarded \$335,000 in grant funding. As part of this grant, our four buildings, three schools and Central Office, will be connected via fiber. We currently rely on virtual connections between our schools. This work will allow an actual physical connection for our network. Work began in August. At the time of this report, the wiring between Tahanto Regional and Central Office has been completed, as has most of the run between Tahanto and Boylston Elementary. This project will be ongoing throughout the Spring of 2024.

As is always the case, this report was not meant to be all inclusive, rather a highlight of the major areas we have worked on in 2023. We thank our two communities for their continued support as we move technology forward in the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Mara, District Technology Coordinator

Boylston Elementary School

It is my pleasure to submit this report for 2023-2024 on behalf of Boylston Elementary School. We are committed to our mission statement, which is, “To support and challenge all students to achieve personal and academic excellence in a student-centered environment.” Our school offers a robust curriculum from kindergarten through grade 5. The learning expectations for students are guided in large part by the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks, which are considered among the strongest in the nation.

Safety:

Safety is always a focus at BES. We have scheduled monthly safety drills in collaboration with the Boylston Police and Fire Departments. Evacuation, fire, weather drills and bus evacuations have been practiced so in case of an emergency students and staff know exactly what to do. Students are led through practice scenarios using age-appropriate language which empowers them in the case of an actual emergency.

Academic Outcomes:

In the spring of 2023, Boylston Elementary students participated in the yearly on-line Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System otherwise known as MCAS. We use the information and data from the results to inform our instruction. While our students are showing nice success, we continue to seek ways to improve our pedagogical practices to further increase student achievement. While the state-wide ELA score increased by a mere 2.4%, the number of students who scored “Meets/Exceeds” at Boylston Elementary, went up 26.1%. As a school, our math scores for grades 3-5 in “Meets/Exceeds” came in at 58%. In that same period the state-wide average for grades 3-5 in “Meets/Exceeds” was 41%. Assessment results are strong compared with other districts across our Commonwealth, and the use of AIMSweb to monitor progress and benchmark for Reading and Math during the school year enables us to monitor student progress more effectively.

Enrollment and Staffing:

As of August 30, 2023, Boylston Elementary School welcomed 312 students from grades kindergarten through grade five. That number is up from 307 the previous year. We have 3 sections each of grades K, 1, 2, and 4; and 2 sections each of grades 3 and 5. As we look ahead to the fall of 2024, we anticipate our enrollment will remain steady with a slight increase. As the school year began, we hired a Technology/Media Specialist and Health teacher. We were fortunate to have all general education and special education positions filled. We hired five paraprofessionals for various roles at our school.

In Conclusion:

Education continues to be a top priority in Boylston. Our students are part of a thoughtful and engaging learning community where students always come first, and we look at the “whole child”. We hold tight to our commitment of continual growth and improvement, and to making a difference in the lives of children. Boylston Elementary School is extremely grateful for the support of our community. We would like to recognize the efforts of our Superintendent, the members of the Berlin Boylston School Committee and our partnerships with the Boylston Police, Fire and Highway Departments. We would also like to thank the Boylston Parent

Teachers Organization, Boylston Education Foundation and all of our classroom parents and the many parent volunteers for the support they provide us each year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia D. Sykes, Principal, Boylston Elementary School

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School

Tahanto welcomed 568 students across grades 6-12 and 11 new faculty and staff members at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year. On July 1, 2023, Lisa Sequeira began her role as Principal and Richard Cameron began his role as Assistant Principal. In August of 2023, the District welcomed Renee Legendre as Tahanto's second Assistant Principal. The year began strongly with the theme of 'Better Together'. The new administrative team continues to build on the strong foundation of educational excellence which is the hallmark of Tahanto. The following information illustrates the highlights of the many wonderful accomplishments in 2023.

National Recognition

In September of 2023, it was announced that *Tahanto Regional Middle High School* in the *Berlin-Boylston Regional School District* was designated as an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School for 2023 by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona. Tahanto was one of three hundred fifty three schools in the nation and one of *seven* schools from *Massachusetts* to be recognized in 2023. This is a tremendous achievement and honor for students, faculty, staff and community members.

Class of 2023

The Superintendent's Award for academic excellence went to Lauren Wattu, who was honored earlier this year at the Worcester County Superintendent's Association's Annual Scholars Luncheon Ceremony for 2023. The Principal's Award was awarded to Alexis German this June on Graduation Sunday. Seventy nine percent of 2023 graduates are attending four year colleges, eight percent are attending two year colleges, five percent entered the workforce, another five percent will be continuing with career and technical training and three percent will be participating in gap year programs. Congratulations to each of the 61 graduates of Tahanto's Class of 2023!

Academic Highlights

During May 2023, nearly 150 Advanced Placement exams in 11 different subjects were administered to Tahanto students in grades 10-12. Students who sat for these exams have the opportunity to earn college credit based upon their exam scores, which become available in July. During the Academic Awards Ceremony in May, 26 students in the Class of 2024 were presented with College Book Awards. These students were recognized for their hard work, leadership, and commitment to the school and community.

In November 2023, 23 students were recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships based on their high academic achievement on the MCAS exams. This is a great achievement for which these students should be very proud.

Athletics

Tahanto continues to have a strong and competitive athletic program. The 2023 winter sport highlights included the girls and boys basketball teams competing in the state tournament and Jess Forbes making the Telegram and Gazette Basketball Super Team while also becoming a 1,000 point scorer. Spring highlights included our softball team competing in the final four and our girls lacrosse team earning the league title for the first time ever! In the fall of 2023, both our

boys and girls varsity soccer teams, as well as the field hockey team, made it to the state tournaments. The football team won the state title, again! Tahanto athletes comprised a significant portion of the West Boylston Lions Football team which won the Division 8 MIAA Football Championship over Carver with a final score of 41-7!

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Sequeira, Principal

BOYLSTON TOWN OFFICES

For Emergencies - Police, Fire, Ambulance: CALL 911

Boylston Town Hall		
Municipal Offices	221 Main Street	
MAIN PHONE #:	508-869-0143	
Fax: 508-869-6210		
OFFICE HOURS:		
Monday - Thursday: 8:00AM - 2:00PM		
Monday evening: 6:00PM - 8:00PM		
Assessors Office		Ext. 234
Assessors' Clerk	Jack Valleli	Ext. 233
Board of Health Admin Asst	Melanie Rich	Ext. 223
Board of Health Inspector	Dennis Costello	508-932-0226
Building Department Admin	Nina Gardner	Ext. 226
Building Inspector	Tony Zahariadis	Ext. 227
Conservation Commission	Melanie Rich	Ext. 223
Council on Aging Coordinator	Kathy Lohnes	Ext. 229
COA Van Coordinator	Donna Loconte	Ext. 229
Facilities Tech.	Bob Bourassa	Ext. 237
Parks and Recreation	Pam Frechette	508-869-6009
Planning Board	Nina Gardner	Ext. 227
Town Planner/Land Use & Inspectional Services Director	Paul Dellaquila	508-869-6019
Human Resources		Ext. 238
Town Accountant	Ninotchka Rogers	508-869-6041
Town Administrator	April Steward	Ext. 221
Selectmen's Admin Assist.	Alison Kennedy	Ext. 228
Town Clerk	Dawn Porter	Ext. 232
Assistant Town Clerk	Rebecca Walker	Ext. 232
Treasurer/Tax Collector	Cheri Cox	Ext. 225
Asst. Treasurer/Collector	Maria Oliveri	Ext. 224
Veteran's Agent	(508) 791-1213	Ext. 1187

Town Counsel:	Stephen Madaus	
Mirick O'Connell		
100 Front St. Worcester, MA 01608-1477		

Public Library:	695 Main St.	
Director:	Erica Hout	508-869-2371
	fax	508-869-6195

Water District:	74 Main St.	
Superintendent:	Scott McCubrey	508-869-2212

Police Dept.	215 Main St.	508-869-2113
	fax	508-869-2360
Chief:	John Annunziata	
Admin. Asst:	Chris Bissonnette	508-869-2453

Historic Town Hall	7 Central Street	
Historical Commission	Bruce Filgate	508-869-2391

Municipal Light Department	Paul X. Tivnan Dr.	
Manager:	Mark Barakian	508-869-2626
	fax	508-869-6130
	Emergencies:	508-869-6564

Berlin-Boylston Regional School District		
	215 Main St, 2nd Floor	
	main	508-869-2837
	fax	508-869-0023
Superintendent	Carol Costello	x.108
Executive Assistant	Nicole Bilotta	x.107
Pupil Personnel Services:	Jannel Fitzpatrick	x.105
Director Of Financial Svcs.	Nancy Konisky	x.103
Tahanto Regional Middle/High School 1001 Main St.		
	main	508-869-2333
	fax	508-869-0175
Principal:	Lisa Sequeira	508-869-2333
Nurse:	Tina Tefft	508-869-9945
Boylston Elementary School 200 Sewall St.		
	main	508-869-2200
	fax	508-869-6914
Principal :	Cinthia Sykes	x.1205
Nurse:	Lisa Lamoreaux	508-869-2200

Elected & Appointed Board Chairmen		
Board of Health	Robert Thibeault	508-869-0317
Board of Selectmen:	Jamie Underwood	508-869-2093
Board of Assessors:	Van Baker	508-869-6214
Board of Appeals:	Bill Filsinger	508-869-6950
Conservation Comm:	Mark Coakley	508-869-0246
Council on Aging:	Dennis Goguen	508-869-6022
Earth Removal Board:	Kim Ames	774-696-1081
Finance Committee:	Frederick Brose	508-869-2853
Historical Commission	Bruce Filgate	508-869-2391
Parks & Recreation:	Eric Hoffses	508-869-6009
Planning Board:	Mark Johnson	
School Comm. (Regional):	Meagan Grill	508-869-2837

Highway / Cemetery	385 Main St.	
Highway/Cemetery Supt:	Steve Mero	508-869-2261
	fax:	508-869-0300
Admin. Asst:	Jill Pupkar	508-869-2261

Fire Dept.	599 Main Street	508-869-2342
Chief	Joe Flanagan	
Captain	Don MacKenzie	
Lieutenant	Jason Bradford	

Dog Officer		508-869-2904
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Inspectors		
Building:	Tony Zahariadis	508-869-6064
	fax	508-869-6210
Plumbing/Gas:	Eric Johnson	508-688-0613
Electrical:	John McQuade	508-869-3130
Sanitation Agent:	Dennis Costello	508-869-6828
	Evenings 7-9pm	508-869-6459