

Fire Department Information

The Fire Department holds meetings every Wednesday night at 7:30pm at the fire station on Plainfield Road. Anyone who wishes to volunteer to become a firefighter or EMT is welcome, but they will be required to take certain training.

TO REPORT A FIRE: Call 911

TO CALL AN AMBULANCE: Call 911

OBTAIN A BURNING PERMIT: 339-5526, 339-5592 or 339-8650

CHIMNEY CLEANING LIST: Greg Cox 339-5526

Town Clerk:

The Town Clerk holds weekly office hours on Wednesday from 9am – 12noon, and is also available at Selectboard meetings, or by appointment (339-4091).

Tax Collector:

Betty Nichols holds weekly office hours on Thursday from 4-6pm.

Board of Selectmen:

The Board of Selectmen holds meetings every other Tuesday evening at 7:30pm at the Town Office on Pudding Hollow Road. Their assistant can be contacted at the Town Office (339-5518) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1:00pm-5:00pm, unless otherwise posted.

Board of Assessors:

The Board of Assessors holds meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Town Office on Pudding Hollow Road. Their assistant can be contacted at the Town Office (339-5518) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1:00pm-5:00pm, unless otherwise posted.

Town of
HAWLEY
Massachusetts



2015
Annual Report

Annual Report
By the
Town Officers



~ 2015 ~

Town of Hawley

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The Board of Selectmen dedicates the 2015 Annual Town Report to **Philip Keenan** in recognition of his long and committed service to the Town of Hawley. After nearly twenty-four years on the Selectboard, Phil resigned on March 1, 2015 to take a job as a chef on a tall ship sailing out of Baltimore and pursue his love of the sea.

Over many years, Phil served the town in a number of capacities, among them: Chairman of the Selectboard, Selectman, Chairman of the Board of Health, Representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Representative to the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program, and Representative to the Cooperative Public Health Oversight Committee.

The Town is grateful for Phil's many years of devoted service and wishes him good health, happiness, and success as he voyages far from Hawley. We hope he will return often to visit us here in this hilltown that he loves and regale us with his seafaring adventures.

TOWN OFFICIALS – ELECTED

Selectmen/Board of Health (3-year term)		
Philip Keenan (resigned Feb 2016)		Term expires 2016
John Sears		Term expires 2017
Robert MacLean		Term expires 2018
Town Clerk (3-year term)		
Pamela Shrimpton		Term expires 2017
Assessors (3-year terms)		
Henry Eggert, Chairman		Term expires 2018
Ed Brady		Term expires 2016
Rick Kean		Term expires 2017
School Committee (3-year terms)		
Courtney Hoyt		Term expires 2018
Hussain Hamdan		Term expires 2016
Sarah Rich		Term expires 2017
Representative to K-12 Comm for Mohawk Trail District (3-year term)		
Kirby Thwing Jr.		Term expires 2017
Suzanne Crawford		Term expires 2018
Non-Parent Member LEC for Hawlemont District (3-year term)		
Suzanne Crawford		Term expires 2016
Moderator		
Kirby (“Lark”) Thwing		Term expires 2016
Auditor		
Carla Clark		Term expires 2016

TOWN OFFICIALS – APPOINTED BY SELECTMEN

(Unless otherwise indicated, terms are for 1 year)

Treasurer (1-yr term) Virginia Gabert	Term expires 2016
Tax Title Custodian (1-yr term) Virginia Gabert	Term expires 2016
Tax Collector (3-yr term) Elizabeth Nichols	Term expires 2018
Administrative Assistant Cassandra Nawrocki	
Superintendent of Streets Richard Gould	
Tree Warden Richard Gould	
Police Chief Stephen Deane	
Police Officer David Rich	
Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden / Emergency Management Director Gregory Cox	Term expires 2016
Animal Control Officer Chris Tirone	Term expires 2016
Constable George Rice	Term expires 2016
Inspectors: Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector Program James D. Hawkins, Commissioner James Cerone, Inspector	

(vacant)	Term expires 2018
John Sears	Term expires 2016
Bob Root	Term expires 2016
Pamela Shrimpton	Term expires 2017

Registrar of Voters (terms expire March 31)

Pamela Shrimpton
 Melanie Poudrier
 Margaret Eggert
 Daniel Hoyt

Election Officers (terms expire August 31)

Gloria Decker	Lorraine McCarthy
Melanie Poudrier	Anne Hamilton-Kean
Elvira Scott	Susan Olsen
Mary Gelinas	Paul Norcross
Christine Hicks	Jane Grant
Tammy Schofield	Beth Thwing
Juanita Clark	Lark Thwing
Jerome Sternstein	CourtneyAnn Hoyt
Trina Sternstein	Margaret Eggert

Council on Aging

(vacant)	Term expires 2016
(vacant)	Term expires 2016
Ann Falwell	Term expires 2016

Burial Agent

Pamela Shrimpton	Term expires 2016
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Measurer of Wood and Surveyor of Lumber

Gregory Cox	Term expires 2016
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Town Counsel

Donna MacNicol

Representative to LEPC

Gregory Cox	Term expires 2016
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Representative to Nilman Scholarship Fund (3-year term)
Alice Parker Term expires 2018

Representative to Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Philip Keenan

Representative to Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program
Philip Keenan

Representative to Cooperative Public Health Oversight Committee
Philip Keenan

Agricultural Commission
(vacant) Term expires 2016
Peter Mitchell Term expires 2017
(vacant) Term expires 2018

Communications Committee
Rick Kean Hussain Hamdan
Kirby Thwing Gregory Rowehl
Susan Olson Pamela Shrimpton
Craig Shrimpton

TOWN OFFICIALS – APPOINTED BY MODERATOR

Finance Committee:
Lloyd Crawford Term expires 2018
Carla Clark Term expires 2019
Kirby Thwing, Jr. Term expires 2020
Jane Grant Term expires 2016
Tammy Schofield Term expires 2017

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT

(MAY 2, 2016)

The following officers are to be elected by ballot on **Monday, the second day of May, 2016**, for which purpose the polls will be open at 11:45 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.:

- Selectman (3-year term)
- Assessor (3-year term)
- Auditor (1-year term)
- Moderator (1-year term)
- Non-Parent Member LEC for Hawlemont District (3-year term)
- Hawlemont School Committee (3-year term)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

(MAY 9, 2016)

There follows a list of business to come before the Annual Town Meeting. This is a preliminary one, and the final warrant, as posted, will contain additions or alterations. **At seven o'clock in the evening on Monday, the ninth day of May, 2016** the meeting will convene to act on the following articles,

Article 1: To act on the reports of the Town Officers, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the following officers of the Town as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws, as amended, or take any other action relative thereto.

Salaries being voted on are as follows:

Chairman of Selectboard	1,854.00
Selectboard members	1,648.00
Town Clerk	8,755.00
Chairman of Assessors	1,339.00
Assessors members	1,133.00
Tax Collector	5,562.00
Treasurer	7,570.50
Auditor	118.50
Moderator	118.50

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following appropriations as recommended by the Selectboard:

(See FY17 Proposed Budget Summary on page 15, and detailed omnibus budget documents available at the Town Office and at www.townofhawley.com. The omnibus budget may be voted on in its entirety; section by section; or line by line – as Town Meeting chooses.)

Total for Article 3: \$951,523.14

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept any amount available in Chapter 90 road funds available subject to conditions detailed by the Massachusetts Highway Department, with any unexpended balances to be carried forward into the next fiscal year, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the Town Computer Account to cover periodic upgrades and repairs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 for the FY18 Assessors Revaluation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for periodic independent audits, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,000.00 for the Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$6,000.00 for Interest Expenses, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000.00 to make a payment against the Storm Damage loan, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,000.00 from Free Cash to make the FY17 payment for the purchase of the used Fire Pumper and 1-ton truck, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be deposited into the fund and expended to purchase dog tags; pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other related dog control expenses under the direction of the Town Clerk, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 will be limited to \$1,000, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer any remaining balance in the FY16 Vocational Tuition and Vocational Transportation accounts into the Vocational Education Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto. (requires 2/3 vote)

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money in the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of paying certain costs associated with the Hawlemont preschool program or take any other action relating thereto.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Mohawk Trail Regional School District – Regional District Agreement effective July 1, 2016 by striking the following language contained in Section XIV (B): (full text available at the Town Office.)

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to accept the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2017 by making the following amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District – Regional District Agreement (full text available at the Town Office).

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Amended Mohawk Trail Regional School District – Regional District Agreement to be effective July 1, 2016 (full text available at the Town Office).

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to enact the following General Bylaw for the Town of Hawley, entitled “Stretch Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the Stretch Energy Code, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of January 1, 2017, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,000 to the FY16 Firefighter Stipend account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum from Free Cash to the FY16 Landfill Maintenance account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**FY17 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY
-FY17 OMNIBUS BUDGET-
(INCLUDING TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 14 & FY15)**

	FY14 Expend	FY15 Expend	FY16 Approp	FY17 Recom'd
TOTAL OMNIBUS BUDGET RPOPOSAL	778,577.37	878,978.13	938,150.77	979,550.14
(detail available at Town Office)				
ADDITIONAL ARTICLES – BALANCES CAN CARRY FORWARD AT END OF YEAR				
Raise & Appropriate	15,593.96	5,940.56	5,832.00	5,500.00
Continuing Ed (carrying 3823)	50.00	308.12	0.00	0.00
Independent Audit (carrying 9840)	14,101.25	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Assessors Reval (carrying 1289)	0.00	4,448.34	1,200.00	1,500.00
Tax Title & Forclosures (carrying 24846)	0.00	1,184.10	0.00	0.00
Insect Pest Control	0.00	0.00	182.00	0.00
Right to Know	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
Computer	1,442.71	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Free Cash	50,636.29	59,365.09	78,500.00	138,000.00
Reserve	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Debt Service	50,636.29	59,365.09	76,500.00	136,000.00
Long term int	7,636.29	6,365.09	6,500.00	6,000.00
Long term principal	43,000.00	53,000.00	70,000.00	130,000.00
Total Appropriations	844,807.62	944,283.78	1,022,482.77	1,123,050.14

REVIEW OF TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS IN 2015

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Hawley
Annual Town Election Results - May 4, 2015
Annual Town Meeting Minutes - May 11, 2015**

FRANKLIN SS:

To George A. Rice, Constable of the Town of Hawley,
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Hawley qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Hawley Town Office in said Hawley on **Monday, the fourth day of May, 2015.**

The following officers are to be elected by ballot, for which purpose the **polls will be open at 11:45 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.:**

Selectman (3-year term) – **Robert MacLean**
Assessor (3-year term) **Henry Eggert**
Assessor (1-year term) **Edward Brady**
Auditor (1-year term) **Carla Clark**
Moderator (1-year term) **Kirby Lark Thwing**
Rep to K-12 Committee for Mohawk Trail District (3-year term)
Suzanne Crawford
Hawlemont School Committee (3-year term) **Courtney Ann Hoyt**

Further, in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Hawley qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Hawley Town Office in said Hawley on **Monday, the eleventh day of May, 2015.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. Moderator Lark Thwing stepped down due to his need to discuss warrant issues under his Finance Committee and Wired West hats, and moved that

Scott Purinton stand in as Moderator tonight in his place. Approved unanimously by voters.

At **seven o'clock in the evening** the meeting will convene to act on the following articles,

Article 1: To act on the reports of the Town Officers. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the following officers of the Town as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws, as amended, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,000.00 for payment of the same, together with such clerical and other office help as the Selectmen may approve.

Salaries being voted on are as follows:

Chairman of Selectboard	1854.00
Selectboard members	1648.00
Town Clerk	8755.00
Chairman of Assessors	1339.00
Assessors members	1133.00
Tax Collector	5562.00
Auditor	118.50
Moderator	118.50
Treasurer	7570.50

Approved unanimously.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following appropriations as recommended by the Selectboard:

Snow Roads	85,000.00
Employee Vacations	8,000.00
Employee Holidays (11)	5,015.00
Employee Sick Days (5)	2,250.00
Employee Health Insurance	24,000.00
Drug and Alcohol Testing	500.00
Town Insurances	24,000.00
Massachusetts Unemployment	250.00
FICA/Medicare (Town's share)	4,600.00
Town Building Expenses	15,500.00

Selectboard Expenses	2,000.00
Treasurer Expenses	2,000.00
Town Clerk Expenses	1,000.00
Outside Utilities	200.00
Finance Committee Expenses	250.00
Conservation Comm. Expenses	100.00
Historical Comm. Expenses	0.00
Planning Board Expenses	100.00
Zoning Board of Appeal Expenses	200.00
Assessor's Expenses	3,700.00
Tax Collector Expenses	2,000.00
Board of Health Expenses	250.00
Town Reports	1,600.00
Bonding	650.00
Police Department	1,250.00
Emergency Management Expenses	200.00
Emergency Management Director Salary	1,000.00
Fire Department	10,000.00
Firefighter Stipends	2,000.00
Fire Chief's Salary	2,500.00
Emergency Medical Services	5,000.00
Insect Pest Control	182.00
Veterans Benefits	2,000.00
Care of Cemeteries	1,500.00
Interest	0.00

The following items do not require a vote, but nevertheless represent amounts which will have to be raised:

W. Franklin Veterans Service Center	780.00
Franklin County Retirement System	20,505.00

Total for Article 3 230,082.00

Approved unanimously.

David Rich requested that we move Articles 53, 54 and 55 to the top of the list and discuss presently. Request denied by Moderator.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~\$175,000.00~~ **amended to \$210,731.00 by Lark Thwing due to a**

Scribner's error to cover its share of operating expenses of the Hawlemont Regional School District. **Approved with 1 opposed.**

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0.00 to cover its share of the capital expenses for the renovations of the Hawlemont Regional School District. **Article passed over – has been paid.**

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide \$1,800.00 for the purpose of paying certain costs associated with the Hawlemont preschool program. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$133,894.00 to cover its share of the operating expenses of the Mohawk Regional School District. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,944.00 to cover its share of the capital expenses for the renovations of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$250,700 to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Mohawk Trail Regional Middle and High School located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include: boiler, doors, locker room, security, ventilation, and window upgrades totaling \$250,700. The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$90,000 to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee to purchase a school bus to be used district wide totaling \$90,000. The bus would replace a bus owned by the District in excess of ten years. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section III(B):

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that all residents of the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) in grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, will receive their education in facilities located in the District: Ashfield and Plainfield residents at Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents at the Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional School and Heath residents at the Heath Elementary School.

And replacing said language with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School and Heath residents to Heath Elementary School.

Notwithstanding the above, students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building and the reassignment of all students being educated in that

building may not be accomplished under this section.
Rather such action requires an amendment to this
Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section
XIV.

Approved unanimously.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement (full text available at the Town Office) which provides for the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2016. **Article passed over.**

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00, to cover the cost of tuition for students attending vocational schools, any unexpended balance to be carried into the next fiscal year. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to cover the cost of transportation for students attending vocational schools. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 for the Tyler Memorial Library. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,400.00 to meet the cost of solid waste disposal in the year beginning July 1, 2015. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,362.00 to cover its allocated share of the budget for the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, including household hazardous waste, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000.00 for the General Highways Account, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to accept any amount available in Chapter 90 road funds available subject to conditions

detailed by the Massachusetts Highway Department, with any unexpended balances to be carried forward into the next fiscal year, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote ~~to raise and appropriate to~~ **take from free cash (as amended by Lark Thwing)** the sum of \$2,000.00 for the Reserve Fund. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to employ counsel and to defend any suit that may be brought against the Town and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the purpose. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450.00 for the Right-to-Know budget in anticipation of reimbursement from the State for this expenditure. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for Machinery Maintenance. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for use by the Council on Aging, such sum to help the COA qualify for a \$3,500.00 Council on Aging formula grant. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for new equipment and ~~grant matching~~ **grant-matching** funds for the Fire Department. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for a gasoline account. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 for internet service expenses. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 for internet equipment and website expenses, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,201.00 for its share of the statutory charges (\$193.00); regional services assessments (\$2,858.00); and Regional Emergency Planning Committee assessment (\$150.00) of the FRCOG. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,364.00 for the Regional Health Agent Program, services provided by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to cover Hawley's share of the compensation for the Franklin County Cooperative Inspector Program. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,606.53 for Blackboard Connect Notification System. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$833.24 to cover expenses relating to Emergency Communications Maintenance Assessment. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for Landfill Maintenance. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the Town Computer Account to cover periodic upgrades and repairs. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 for the FY18 Assessors Revaluation. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for periodic independent audits. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$6,500.00 for Interest Expenses. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 to make a payment against the Storm Damage loan. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote ~~to raise and appropriate to~~ **take from free cash (as amended by Lark Thwing)** the sum of \$20,000.00 to cover the final payment for the purchase of the McCloud property. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum from Free Cash into the Highway Equipment Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Article passed over.**

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum from Free Cash into the Fire Equipment Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Article passed over.**

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum from Free Cash into the General Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Article passed over.**

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote ~~to raise and appropriate to~~ **take from free cash (as amended by Lark Thwing)** the sum of \$30,000.00 required for the FY16 payment for the purchase of the used Fire Pumper and 1-ton truck. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be deposited into the fund and expended to purchase dog tags; pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other related dog control expenses under the direction of the Town Clerk, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 will be limited to \$1,000, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Vocational Education Stabilization Fund, and to transfer any remaining balance in the FY15 Vocational Tuition and Vocational Transportation accounts into said Fund. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 47: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the \$2,000.00 appropriation for a propane heater for the Town Office into the Town Building Maintenance/Renovation account. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 48: To see if the Town will vote to carry the balances in the following accounts over into FY16. (Amounts listed are as of March 31. Actual amounts to be carried over at the end of the Fiscal Year may be less.)

Audit	840.00
Tax Title & Foreclosure Costs	8,530.50
Town Building Maintenance/Renovation (plus \$2,000 from article 47)	12,111.83
Surplus Equipment	900.00
Employee Sick Pay	16,005.44
Continuing Education (Town Officers)	3,898.88
Assessors Revaluation	89.73
Council on Aging	1,898.98
General Highways – carry over	33,031.98

Article 49: To see if the Town will vote to close the balances in the following accounts to Surplus Revenue, or take any other action in relation thereto. (Amounts listed are as of March 31. Actual amounts to be closed at the end of the Fiscal Year may be less.)

Land Sale/Auction Expenses	2,760.11
Town Computer Account	864.12
Tri-Town Landfill	6,336.33
Tri-Town Landfill/McCloud Purchase	21,765.58
Handicap Access Town Buildings	786.05
Dry Hydrants	400.00
Town Garage Construction	23,798.87
Fire Equipment/Grant Match	1,116.78

Approved unanimously.

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to accept as public way the Roadway layout shown on a plan entitled “Savoy Road” prepared for the

Town of Hawley by McFarland Johnson, Inc. dated April _____ 2015 and recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book _____ Page _____ or take any action in relation thereto.

Article passed over.

Article 51: To see if the Town will vote to accept all Temporary and Permanent easements shown on a plan entitled "Savoy Road" prepared for the Town of Hawley by McFarland Johnson, Inc. dated April _____ 2015 and recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book _____ Page _____ or take any action in relation thereto.

Article passed over.

Article 52: To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Personnel Committee to oversee Position Description maintenance (drafting and updating); Personnel Policy interpretation and administration; candidate search and new employee orientation. The Selectboard will appoint five members to this Committee, two for one-year; two for two-years and one for three-years. Thereafter the terms will be set for three years.

Approved with 12 opposed.

Article 53: (submitted by petition): To see if the Town will vote to issue a Home Rule Request to the Massachusetts legislature, requesting the enactment of the attached proposed Act, which Act allows for the Recall of Elected Officials in the Town of Hawley by special Recall Election; and to instruct and empower the Selectmen and the Town Clerk to take any action in relation thereto, including forwarding copies of said Home Rule Request and said proposed Act to Hawley's Representative and Senator and to any other appropriate Official. **After discussion, a vote was taken to decide if we would vote on the article as is now or discuss further in the future and possibly amend. Over 32 votes in favor of having additional discussion. The following text was submitted to the Town Clerk by Lloyd Crawford:**

I move that the Article 53 be amended by substituting the following language for the language of the original article: To see if the town will vote to send the attached proposed Act to a committee appointed by the Moderator (or Town Clerk?) for review. Said committee will be charged with holding a public hearing on the Act and revising the Act in response to public comment and suggestions from Donna

McNichol, the town attorney. Once revised, the Act will be brought back to the next special town meeting for a vote.

Article with amended text approved with 2 opposed.

Article 54: (submitted by petition): To see if the Town will vote to withdraw from the collaborative of Towns commonly known as Wired West; to repeal any Article of any previous Town Meeting which had caused Hawley to join said collaborative; and to abolish the appointed positions of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to Wired West. However, this Article shall not repeal or otherwise abolish Hawley's establishment of a municipal lighting plant, independent of Wired West. **Hussain Hamdan proposed an amendment to the article:**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the unanimous recommendation which has been made by the Hawley Communications Committee and subsequently adopted by the Hawley Board of Selectmen, by resolving that the Town should not pursue the current plan being advanced by Wired West and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute which plan calls for wiring every house in Hawley with fiber optic cable at a cost of approximately one million dollars or more to the Town, and resolving that the Town should not pursue any other broadband or high speed Internet plan which entails substantially similar or greater expenses, and to request that the Selectmen refrain from putting on the Warrant for any Town Meeting or Special Town Meeting, any Article which would advance or finance such a plan.

Move to change article as per this amendment. Approved unanimously.

Move to accept this amended article – Article approved with 7 opposed.

Article 55: (submitted by petition): To see if the Town will vote to prohibit the Selectmen or any other Town Board or Committee from appropriating any money to or on behalf of the collaborative of Towns commonly known as Wired West following the passage of this Article; and to further prohibit any Town Board or Committee from spending any money under its jurisdiction to produce, circulate, or support mailings,

publications, or any other kind of advocacy for or on behalf of Wired West; and to further prohibit reimbursement of mileage associated with the attendance by any Town Official or Representative at a Wired West function.

Article tabled.

Article 56: To transact any other business that legally may come before the Town Meeting.

There being no further business, the Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Hawley
Special Town Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2015**

FRANKLIN SS:

To George A. Rice, Constable of the Town of Hawley,
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Hawley qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Hawley Town Office in said Hawley on **Monday, the twenty-ninth day of June, 2015.**

At **seven o'clock in the evening** the meeting will convene to act on the following articles,

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator Kirby Lark Thwing at 7:00 p.m.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Hawlemont Regional School District to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$120,175, to be expended under the direction of the School Building

Committee to design, purchase and construct a wood pellet hybrid system in accordance with the DOER SAPHIRE grant program criteria for the Hawlemont Elementary School located on 10 School Street in Charlemont, Massachusetts (detailed listing available), totaling \$120,175. The proposed project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.

Approved with two opposed.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Hawlemont Regional School District to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$94,652, to be expended under the direction of the School Committee for repair work to the Hawlemont Elementary School located on 10 School Street in Charlemont, Massachusetts, to include (project listing available): school sign installation, roof and foundation repairs, lighting and security camera upgrades and the district's share of a school bus totaling \$94,652. The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.

Approved unanimously.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,450.00 from Overlay Surplus into the Overlay FY14 account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Approved unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$892.00 from Free Cash to the FY15 Snow Roads account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Approved unanimously.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,200.00 to cover Help America Vote Act (HAVA) expenses for FY16, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article amended:

The town, while approving this expense, also instructs the Selectmen to register its protest with the appropriate State and/or Federal authorities that the Town is being required to pay this sum of money for this item.

Amended article Approved unanimously.

Article 6: To transact any other business that legally may come before the Town Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Hawley
Special Town Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2015,7:00pm**

The Special Town Meeting was convened at 7:00 pm by Moderator Lark Thwing. 21 resident voters were present at the start of the meeting. A 22nd voter joined the meeting prior to Article 9.

ARTICLE 1: Motion to accept the layout of Savoy Road voted by the Select Board at a duly posted meeting held on July 28, 2015, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 82, §s 21-24 as more particularly described in a set of plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117,” dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a temporary easement on the northerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from William Dwight and Lida L. Lewis for the purpose of temporary relocation of overhead wires and utility poles and to construct a slope with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct and maintain the slope thereon and to use and maintain utility structures and/or utility poles, guy wires, push poles, and overhead wires for the purpose of maintaining temporary utility service and to construct a slope during the Savoy Road and bridge project, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-TE-1, consisting of 4,781 square feet

more less on a set of plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117,” dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk.
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

After discussion regarding the fact that William Dwight will donate at easement at no cost to the town, a vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed. ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 3: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a temporary easement on the southerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from William Dwight and Lida L. Lewis for the purpose of constructing a slope and temporary pedestrian bridge with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct and maintain the slope thereon and temporary pedestrian bridge and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the slope and temporary pedestrian bridge during the Savoy Road and bridge project, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-TFB-2, consisting of 2,841 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117,” dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk;
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

A vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed. ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a temporary easement on the northerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from Charles M. Cutler for the purpose of constructing a slope with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct and

maintain the slope thereon during the Savoy Road and bridge project, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-TE-3, consisting of 4,893 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117," dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk; (Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

After discussion regarding the fact that Charles Cutler will donate at easement at no cost to the town, a vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed. ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 5: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO AQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a temporary easement on the southerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from Charles M. Cutler for the purpose of clearing slope and constructing a temporary pedestrian bridge with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct and maintain for clearing, slope, and temporary pedestrian bridge construction thereon and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing and maintaining for clearing, slope, and temporary pedestrian bridge construction during the Savoy Road and bridge project, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-TFB-4, consisting of 5,062 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117," dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk; (Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

After further discussion regarding the fact that Charles Cutler will donate at easement at no cost to the town, a vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed. ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 6: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO AQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY

OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a permanent easement on the southerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from William Dwight and Lida L. Lewis for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct, repair, maintain, erect and place utilities and any other necessary structures, drainage, and all other general highway purposes thereon; and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes Savoy Road and the bridge thereon, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-B-1, consisting of 344 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Frankin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117," dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk;
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

**A vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed.
ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 7: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a permanent easement on the northerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from Charles M. Cutler for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct, repair, maintain, erect and place utilities and any other necessary structures, drainage, and all other general highway purposes thereon; and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes Savoy Road and the bridge thereon, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-PUE-1, consisting of 168 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Frankin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117," dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk;
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

**A vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed.
ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 8: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a permanent easement on the southerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from Charles M. Cutler for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct, repair, maintain, erect and place utilities and any other necessary structures, drainage, and all other general highway purposes thereon; and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes Savoy Road and the bridge thereon, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-PUE-2, consisting of 170 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117,” dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk;
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

**A vote was taken by a showing of hands. 21 in favor and 0 opposed.
ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 9: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a permanent easement on the southerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from Charles M. Cutler for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct, repair, maintain, erect and place utilities and any other necessary structures, drainage, and all other general highway purposes thereon; and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes Savoy Road and the bridge thereon, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-PUE-3, consisting of 50 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled

“Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117,” dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk;
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

**A vote was taken by a showing of hands. 22 in favor and 0 opposed.
ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 10: Motion to AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, GIFT, EMINENT DOMAIN OR ANY OTHER LEGAL MEANS NECESSARY, a permanent easement on the southerly side of Savoy Road, Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Massachusetts from Charles M. Cutler for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes with the right to enter upon said land at any time to construct, repair, maintain, erect and place utilities and any other necessary structures, drainage, and all other general highway purposes thereon; and to use and maintain any structures erected thereon for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and general highway purposes Savoy Road and the bridge thereon, said land is more particularly described as Parcel X-B-2, consisting of 350 square feet more less on a set of plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Plan and Profile of Savoy Road (Bridge No. H-13-003 (BPG) in the Town of Hawley, Franklin County, Preliminary Right of Way Plan, Project File No. 607117,” dated June 24, 2015. Said plans are filed with the Town Clerk;
(Requires 2/3 vote; votes must be counted)

**A vote was taken by a showing of hands. 22 in favor and 0 opposed.
ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Hawley
Special Town Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2015**

The meeting was convened at 7:03 pm by moderator Lark Thwing. 53 registered voters were present.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to amend its existing Protective Zoning Bylaws by adopting a new Section 36: Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Generating Installations which would requires a Special Permit and Site Plan Review for Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Generating installations occupying more than 1 acre of land on one or more adjacent parcels in common ownership as of the date of the adoption of this Bylaw (including those separated by a roadway) up to a maximum of 10 acres, except that facilities which are 250 kW in size or less that require more than 1 acre up to 1.5 acres are exempt from requiring a Special Permit but are subject to Site Plan Review and the requirements of this section but must clearly specify the reasons for utilizing more than 1 acre; and to adopt a new Section 57: Site Plan Review to require Site Plan Review for Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Generating Installations occupying more than 2,000 square feet of land in the form available at Town Meeting labeled “Town Meeting Version” and dated September 3, 2015.

Notes:

Smaller scale Ground Mounted Solar Electric Generating Installations occupying 2,000 square feet of land or less (approx. 10-15 kW nameplate capacity) which are an accessory structure to an existing residential or non-residential use do not need to comply with Section 36 and are not proposed to require Site Plan Review.

Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Generating Installations covering more than 10 acres would not be allowed anywhere in town.

MOTION TO TABLE: 27 FOR, 25 AGAINST. ARTICLE TABLED.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to have the Select Board seek special legislation to enact the following recall election bylaw as a bylaw for the Town of Hawley.

9 OPPOSED – ARTICLE PASSES

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,000 from Free Cash to the Landfill Maintenance account to cover additional testing.

ARTICLE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept a Hazard Mitigation Grant for \$262,970.00 and a MassWorks grant for \$87,000 to stabilize the bank behind the Town Garage.

ARTICLE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the balance in the Bicentennial fund into the Historical Commission Trust Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof, one at the West Hawley Town Garage, one at the Hawley Town Office, and one at the Hawley Fire Station, seven days at least before time of holding said meeting.

ARTICLE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT - FY15

Following the retirement of long-standing Treasurer, Charlie Stetson, the Town has had three qualified individuals try to fill his shoes. The challenge, whether due to time, money, or the frustrations of a hybrid accounting system, caused each of them to choose to leave the position.

As I, Virginia Gabert, had been the Assistant Treasurer for quite a few years, assisting Charlie with periodic Treasurer activities as well as helping create the hybrid accounting system, I was a natural consideration to fill the position. Instead of advertising again, the Selectboard chose to divide my job as Administrative Assistant, and create a position of Financial Administrator - to take on the Treasurer duties and continue assisting the Board of Assessors and the Highway Department with certain clerical and accounting functions. The Selectboard advertised for and found a wonderful new Administrative Assistant, Cass Nawrocki from Ashfield.

Over the past year, the former Treasurers as well as the Finance Committee had been working on converting the format and structure of the accounting system so that it was more transparent, and also more in line with the structure of UMAS (Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System). This will save a lot of time preparing and filing annual reports with the Commonwealth. The structure and appearance of the budget will be different, but will enable easier understanding of who has "control" of various parts of the budget of the Town. If anyone has any questions about these changes, I encourage you to ask.

As this is the year with the most structural changes, there is not a "Report of Disbursements" as in the past. Instead, you will find that information along with the proposed budget - which will show the past two years' worth of actual expenses; the amount budgeted for the current year (FY16); the requested budget for FY17; and the budget proposed by the Finance Committee for FY17.

It may take a little while to get used to this new format, but I believe the townspeople will benefit from the additional information that it provides.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Gabert, Treasurer / Financial Administrator

ACCOUNTING OF FREE CASH FY2015

FREE CASH CERTIFIED AS OF 7/1/2014	123,000.00
5/11/15 ATM	
Reserve	2,000.00
McCloud property	20,000.00
Fire Pumper/Hwy truck	30,000.00
Interest	6,500.00
Storm damage pmt	20,000.00
11/13/14 STM	
Audit	6,000.00
Truck engine repairs	12,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	96,500.00
BALANCE OF FREE CASH AS OF 6/30/2015	26,500.00
PREVIEW FOR FY2016:	
FREE CASH CERTIFIED AS OF 7/1/2015	272,684.00

REPORT OF SURPLUS REVENUE FY2015

Balance as of 7/1/2014	299,657.04
06/30 FY13 Free Cash for FY15 budget	-2,000.00
11/13 STM transfers from FY14 Free Cash	-18,000.00
03/27 Account added to tax title	-46.26
03/27 Account added to tax title	-46.55
04/14 Collection of written off 2004 mv excise	72.50
04/14 Collection of written off 2003 mv excise	30.00
06/23 Accounts added to tax title (multiple)	-56,190.72
06/29 Free Cash used for FY15 snow roads overage	-892.00
06/30 Minor balance in budget of FY15	-0.22
06/30 Reverse out estimated receipts	-179,382.00
06/30 Actual receipts FY15	64,293.49
06/30 Actual Cherry Sheet receipts FY15	145,534.15
06/30 Exp acct balances closed to Surplus Rev	60,142.49
06/30 Closing balance in old accts to surplus rev	57,011.73
per 5/11/15 ATM art 49	
06/30 FY14 Free Cash for FY16 budget per ATM	78,500.00
Balance as of 6/30/2015	292,033.65

TREASURER'S REVENUES & ACCOUNT BALANCES REPORT
7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015

Balance as of 7/1/14	1,026,640
Receipts:	
Tax Collections:	
Real Estate Taxes	762,202
Personal Property Taxes	41,942
Motor Vehicle Taxes	35,697
In Lieu of Taxes	1,000
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	16,676
Other tax collection	1,612
PERMITS/FEES/LICENSES:	
Tax Collector Fees	2,460
Deputy Collector Fees	1,899
Town Clerk Fees	325
Police Department Fees	1,120
Copies/Fax	11
Zipline Permit	500
Board of Health Permits	3,056
Planning Board Filing Fees	140
ZBA Filing Fees	100
Trash Bags/Permits	2,885
Fire Department Permits	105
Dog Licenses & Late Fees	350
Survey incentive	200
PAYROLL WITHHOLDINGS:	
Federal Tax Withheld	19,454
FICA/Medicare Withheld	4,272
Mass Tax Withheld	9,590
County Retirement Withheld	11,240
Employee Health Insurance W/H	6,044
OTHER:	
Vocational Transportation	1,968
Disaster Assistance	42,031
Refunds	1,755
Interest on Accounts	1,782
Trust Fund Interest	148
Donations	50
Bonding	572

GRANTS:		
Fire Dept Grants	1,790	
COA Grant	4,000	
DEP Recycling Grant	500	
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:		
Chapter 70	34,716	
Exemptions (Veterans/Blind)	5,768	
Exemptions (Elderly)	462	
Unrestricted General Aid	38,509	
SAPL 12 (Library)	1,801	
Extended Polling Hours	459	
State Land	64,278	
Chp. 90 Reimbursement	198,301	
Registry of Motor Vehicles	50	
Loan - Trucks	150,000	
Loan - Storm Damage	490,000	
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	1,961,820	
BALANCE PLUS RECEIPTS:	2,988,460	
LESS SELECTMEN'S WARRANTS:	2,083,589	
		904,871
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF 6/30/15:		
Checking Accounts	49,105	
Storm Damage Account	5,001	
Savings Accounts	543,628	
Bicentennial Fund - Historical Comm	8,768	
TRUST FUNDS:		
Stabilization Account	286,047	
Other Trust Funds	12,322	
TOTAL:		904,871

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

GENERAL FUND

ASSETS

Current Assets		606,501.64
Accounts Receivable		
Personal Property Taxes		
PP Taxes FY13	158.26	
PP Taxes FY14	83.78	
PP Taxes FY15	330.14	
PP Taxes FY16	20,620.85	
Total Personal Property Taxes	21,193.03	
Real Estate Taxes		
RE Taxes FY13	0.00	
RE Taxes FY14	253.19	
RE Taxes FY15	16,949.01	
RE Taxes FY16	378,664.69	
Total Real Estate Taxes	395,866.89	
Total Taxes due (PP, RE)		417,059.92
Excise Taxes		
Motor Vehicle 2010	125.83	
Motor Vehicle 2011	191.67	
Motor Vehicle 2012	45.21	
Motor Vehicle 2013	493.75	
Motor Vehicle 2014	783.95	
Motor Vehicle 2015	3,705.43	
Total Excise Taxes	5,345.84	
Total Taxes due (other)		5,345.84
Other tax collections		
Tax Titles	72,037.50	
Tax Possessions	18,117.48	
Total Other tax collections		90,154.98
State Aid to Highways (a/r)	196,494.49	
Grants (receivable)		
EOC Grant	3,900.00	
Total Grants (receivable)		3,900.00
Loans Authorized (asset)	2,678,000.00	
Due from Stabilization (toGen)	0.00	
Due from Trust (toGen)	97.44	
		2,968,646.91
Total Current Assets		3,997,554.31

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Due to Trust(from Gen.)	0.00	
Due to Stabilization(from Gen.)	49,922.61	
Temp. Storm Damage Loan	490,000.00	
		539,922.61
Overlay		
Overlay fy09	1,117.62	
Overlay fy10	2,075.13	
Overlay fy11	3,001.88	
Overlay fy12	4,645.46	
Overlay fy13	8,612.69	
Overlay FY14	3,971.87	
Overlay FY15	6,761.18	
Total Overlay control		30,185.83
Deferred Revenue		
MV deferred revenue	5,345.84	
Tax Title (defer. rev)	72,037.50	
Tax Possession (def. rev)	18,117.48	
Total Deferred Revenue		95,500.82
Receipts Reserved		
Sale of Cemetery Lots	2,825.00	
Sale of Real Estate	1,650.00	
Total Receipts Reserved		4,475.00
Payroll Liabilities		398.15
Other continuing appropriations		
Audit	6,840.00	
Tax Title & Forcl. Costs	7,346.40	
Town Bldg maint/renov	14,111.83	
Internet Instal/equip	83.17	
Surplus Equipment	900.00	
Gen. Hwys (carry over)	18,746.15	
Vacation pay carry over	3,711.40	
Employee Sick Pay	16,005.44	
Continuing Ed.	3,873.88	
Assessors reval	89.73	
Council on Aging	1,075.35	
Hwy Dept equip repair	12,000.00	
Total Other continuing appropriations		84,783.35
Special Revenue liability funds		
Bicentennial Fund	4,016.00	
HawleyRidge Cons Fund	1,435.00	
Donations	276.65	
Total Special Revenue liability funds		5,727.65

Revolving Funds		
Dog Fund	3,563.27	
Wetland Protect. Fund	1,147.50	
Total Revolving Funds		4,710.77
Additional State/Fed Assistance		
Disaster Assistance	-362,934.69	
Total Additional State/Fed Assistance		-362,934.69
State Revenue		
Chapter 90	111,396.13	
Total State Revenue		111,396.13
Grants		
Comm. Policing Grant	3,390.59	
DARE Grant	929.02	
COA Grant	0.00	
HCI Grant	2,893.80	
NIMS education	500.00	
EOC Grant	2,323.69	
Total Grants		10,037.10
Insurance Reimbursement (theft)		1,021.30
Insurance Reimbursement (flood)		12,084.10
Total Other Current Liabilities		537,308.12
Long Term Liabilities		
Loan Authorized and Unissued	2,678,000.00	
Debt paydown auth – Pumper	12,425.00	
Equity		2,690,425.00
Budget of FY16	399,287.54	
Surplus revenue	292,033.65	
Free Cash - allocated	78,500.00	
Total Equity		769,821.19
TOTAL LIAB & EQUITY		3,997,554.31
TRUST FUNDS		
Trust Funds - cash		
Hoosac CD (Library)	3,714.32	
Peoples Historical Comm	5,211.44	
BWM CD (Cemetery 1)	1,752.53	
BWM CD (Cemetery 2)	1,644.27	
GSB (Gen Stabilization)	105,994.50	
GSB (Hwy Stabilization)	120,037.56	
GSB (Fire Dept Stabilization)	60,014.79	
Total Trust Funds - cash		298,369.41
Due from General (toStabiliz)		49,922.61
Total Trust Funds - assets		348,292.02

Trust Funds - equity		
Due to General Fund(from trust)	97.44	
Trust Funds (equity)		
Library fund	3,714.32	
Historical Comm.trust	5,210.78	
Cemetery Fund	3,300.02	
Stabilization Fund	105,994.50	
Hwy Dept Stabiliz. Fund	120,037.56	
FireEquip Stabiliz. Fund	60,014.79	
Voc. Ed. Stabiliz. Fund	49,922.61	
Total Trust Funds (equity)		348,194.58
Total Trust Funds - liab & equity		348,292.02

DEBT

Long Term Liabilities		
Net Funded Fixed Debt	-170,000.00	170,000.00
Notes Payable		
Note payable - McCloud land pur	20,000.00	
Note Payable - trucks	150,000.00	170,000.00

**TOWN COLLECTOR'S REPORT
7-01-14 THRU 6-30-15**

	BALANCE ON 07/01/14	COMMITTED AFTER 06/30/14	COLLECTED	ABATED	EXEMPTED	REFUNDED	TAX TAKINGS	OVER PAYMENT	BALANCE ON 6/30/2015
REAL ESTATE									
FY 2016	\$0.00	\$378,666.69	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$378,664.69
2015	\$414,210.24	\$0.00	\$380,137.38	\$0.00	\$6,112.50	\$5,784.46	\$16,795.81		\$16,949.01
2014	\$26,996.78	\$0.00	\$10,663.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,080.44		\$253.19
2013	\$16,678.46	\$0.00	\$3,862.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,816.05		\$0.00
2012	\$8,517.68	\$0.00	\$3,988.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,529.07		\$0.00
2011	\$7,213.87	\$0.00	\$4,343.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,869.94		\$0.00
2010	\$2,450.69	\$0.00	\$376.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,074.45		\$0.00
2009	\$1,117.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,117.77		\$0.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY									
FY 2016	\$0.00	\$20,620.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$20,620.85
2015	\$29,204.83	\$0.00	\$28,363.55	\$686.39		\$175.25			\$330.14
2014	\$1,874.62	\$0.00	\$1,091.38	\$699.46		\$0.00			\$83.78
2013	\$912.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$753.80		\$0.00			\$158.26
2012	\$770.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$770.34		\$0.00			\$0.00
2011	\$692.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$692.36		\$0.00			\$0.00
2010	\$692.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$692.36		\$0.00			\$0.00
2009	\$773.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$773.93		\$0.00			\$0.00
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE									
FY 2015	\$0.00	\$31,982.84	\$28,118.14	\$391.14		\$231.87			\$3,705.43
2014	\$1,383.02	\$175.00	\$774.07	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$783.95
2013	\$902.81	\$0.00	\$409.06	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$493.75
2012	\$287.40	\$0.00	\$242.19	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$45.21
2011	\$191.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$191.67
2010	\$125.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$125.83

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors holds monthly meetings at the Town Office at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise posted).

We welcomed Ed Brady as a new member to the Board, and appreciate his extensive building knowledge. Ed filled the position following the resignation of Jason Velazquez.

The Assessors review approximately 1/3 of the properties in town each year, generally during the spring and summer months. To ensure most accurate assessments, they need to have access to residences in order to perform interior data collection. Any residents who would like to have the Assessors confirm or update the data on file are welcome to contact Virginia Gabert, at the Town Office to set up an appointment. Otherwise, approximately once every three years, all residents can expect a visit. If access is not available, or is denied, the Assessor's will be forced to make their best determination based on exterior data collection.

Any townspeople with questions about their assessments, abatements, or any other related issues are welcome to contact Virginia Gabert at the Town Office. If she is unable to answer your inquiries, she will gather the necessary information, present it to us and contact you with our response. To assist taxpayers in fulfilling filing requirements, we do an annual mailing early each year to most taxpayers which includes any of the following forms:

- "Form of List" for those required to pay personal property taxes
- "Exemption Application" for certain elderly; blind; veterans; and farmers
- "Form 3ABC" for charitable organizations
- Abatement applications are mailed out upon request.

The prompt filing of these forms may result in a reduction in taxes, in some cases, and may preserve your right to a full abatement in the case of overvaluation or the avoidance of penalties due to late filing. If you did not receive the correct form; if you have any questions about them; or if you think that you may qualify for an exemption and did not receive an application, please contact Virginia in the Town Office.

All of these forms have important deadlines – many of which the Board of Assessors do not have the authority to extend. Although we mail forms to most landowners, it is the sole responsibility of the landowner to obtain the necessary forms and file them prior to the respective deadlines.

The following chart shows the overall property value of the town in recent years. This past year, the tax rate continued to decrease slightly to \$15.50/1,000. We will continue to keep a very close eye on property values and any possible new growth in order to minimize impacts on taxpayers as much as possible.

	Personal Property	Real Property	Total Property	Tax Rate per\$1000
2005/2006	1,650,743	29,306,800	30,957,543	18.50
2006/2007	1,221,468	29,737,000	30,958,468	17.99
2007/2008	1,191,180	37,847,900	39,039,080	14.75
2008/2009	1,813,045	45,291,000	47,104,045	13.25
2009/2010	1,810,555	45,280,400	47,090,955	14.65
2010/2011	1,767,315	45,764,500	47,531,815	14.65
2011/2012	1,596,367	44,934,700	46,531,067	16.30
2012/2013	1,566,967	45,737,400	47,304,367	15.95
2013/2014	1,522,285	46,215,500	47,737,785	16.05
2014/2015	2,573,397	48,537,200	51,110,597	15.75
2015/2016	2,384,902	48,944,500	51,329,402	15.50

Real property valuations by location are listed below:

Primary Owner	Address	Tax value
LAVALLEY, TANNER	0 ASHFIELD ROAD	28,000
HAY, BENJAMIN & DOUGLAS	0 ASHFIELD ROAD	84,900
MASSACHUSETTS LAND LEAGUE	0 ASHFIELD ROAD	6,200
CLARK, BRIAN	0 ASHFIELD ROAD	5,800
DELUCA, ELLEN	0 ASHFIELD ROAD	300
MIZULA, MARK & SANDRA	5 ASHFIELD ROAD	137,600
FAY, JOHN C & GLORIA C	12 ASHFIELD ROAD	188,400
SUMNER, STUART & DONNA	17 ASHFIELD ROAD	231,100
LAVALLEY, EUGENE & ARLENE	18 ASHFIELD ROAD	187,900
CLARK, KYLE & DAPHNE	0 BOZRAH ROAD	70,200
CLARK, JUANITA	7 BOZRAH ROAD	220,000
CLARK, ANGELA	17 BOZRAH ROAD	199,800

GRIFFIN, PAUL S. & ELIZABETH H.	19 BOZRAH ROAD	95,600
LATSHANG, EILEEN WESTON	24 BOZRAH ROAD	149,500
BOGART, MATTHEW M.	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	31,500
GRANT, STEPHEN & ELLEN J	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	53,200
SCHOFIELD, MICHAEL	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	28,200
ROSENBAUM, LYNNEL & KIM	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	29,100
CLARK, THOMAS	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	29,400
RICHARD, MELANIE	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	28,000
BOUFFARD, DENIS & KAREN	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	28,000
BIZZI, RICHARD A	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	34,300
ROSENBAUM, LYNNEL & KIM	0 BUCKLAND ROAD	31,000
ULLIAN, KIT JESSE & SHARI	41 BUCKLAND ROAD	281,200
ORZECKOWSKI, PAUL & KIM.	115 BUCKLAND ROAD	141,900
CLARK, DAVID A. & CARLA C.	121 BUCKLAND ROAD	148,500
ULLIAN, FRANK	7 CLARK ROAD	576,800
COTHEY, EDWARD & PAMELA	15 DODGE BRANCH ROAD	714,200
RICHARDSON, KEVIN	0 DODGE CORNER ROAD	29,600
FARROW, RICHARD	0 DODGE CORNER ROAD	29,000
LOWELL, DAVID E. & TAMMY M.	0 DODGE CORNER ROAD	15,700
FAIT, HAROLD C	3 DODGE CORNER ROAD	106,100
HARRIS, WILLIAM & CONSTANC	26 DODGE CORNER ROAD	258,900
FARROW, RICHARD & EVELYN	5 DODGE ROAD	215,200
FAIT, HAROLD C.	29 DODGE ROAD	191,300
RICHARDSON, KEVIN	32 DODGE ROAD	282,800
WEEKS, BARBARA	71 DODGE ROAD	103,200
APREA, FERDINAND & GARY	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	120,500
CULVER, HARRY	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	28,800
C TO THE THIRD POWER, LLC	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	54,000
FAUFAW, KRISTIE	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	34,000
MCLAUGHLIN, CHRISTINE	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	32,100
COBB, CHERYL	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	4,400
COBB, CHERYL	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	500
QUINNEHTUK COMPANY	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	1,000
ROOT, ROBERT W. & SERRA A.	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	63,900
HYYTINEN, SHIRLEY	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	28,000
ESTATE OF GEO. RICHARDSON	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	2,500
CULVER, HARRY	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	84,600
LAWLESS, WILLIAM S	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	67,600
CULVER, HARRY	0 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	44,800
MENDE, ROBERT & SHIRLEY	5 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	169,800
WALSH, JAMES & KATHLEEN	8 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	123,900
DUPUIS, SANDRA	24 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	139,200
DUPUIS, RONALD & SANDRA	28 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	214,800
CLARK, MITCHELL	29 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	89,900

GRISWOLD, GORDON & JANICE	31 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	240,400
LEMIEUX, JULIA	42 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	177,100
CLARK, DOROTHY (HEIRS OF)	45 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	125,200
SWOPE, WESTON	49 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	238,500
PARRA, PHILIP W. & PATRICIA	52 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	249,500
RICE, JAMES & FLORA	54 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	333,800
BESHARA, DOROTHY A.	EAST HAWLEY ROAD	29,400
TANGUAY, EUGENE	59 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	311,200
BOUCIAS, GREGG & JEAN	67 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	125,400
CLARK, KYLE & DAPHNE	69 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	288,500
CAPLAN, ROBERT	74 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	225,500
ISAACSEN, KIMBERLY TANGUAY	78 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	173,200
TANGUAY, WILLIAM	81 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	264,400
CLARK, TIMOTHY & ROBIN	86 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	135,000
NICOLE P. MILLER REALTY TRUST	95 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	512,800
EDMONSON, NANCY	98 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	114,700
MCLAUGHLIN, CHRISTINE	103 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	144,000
TRUEHART, LEROY (ESTATE)	104 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	143,300
THOMSON, ELAINE & RAYMOND	106 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	210,600
HOWE, ADAM & KELLY	112 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	199,400
HAGEN, SUSAN & SINTIRIS, WILL.	115 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	83,700
SEGAL, YVETTE	116 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	168,500
SHUTTA, STEVEN	120 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	215,100
GARVEY, HOLLY	124 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	237,400
BROWN, LOOCIE & SOMMERS, E.	127 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	203,100
FAUFAW, KRISTIE & SISUM, M.	128 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	390,400
OLEFSKY, HAI ZHENG & MAXINE	153 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	281,200
SPRING, PATRICIA	168 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	97,700
GOTTA, RAYMOND	235 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	126,300
COLE, WILLIAM G., TRUSTEE	252 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	76,400
SWOPE, JAMES & SUSAN	254 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	175,100
KAPSINOW, JAY	259 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	240,600
SWOPE, JAMES & SUSAN	262 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	73,100
MCGRATH, JAMES & CAROL	270 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	241,100
BELLOWS, KEVIN	282 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	400,700
YATES, RICHARD & CHERYL	292 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	280,300
GRANT, STEPHEN & ELLEN JANE	319 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	252,900
HARRISON, DREW & ASHLEY	324 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	177,500
ROOT, ROBERT W. & SERRA A.	330 EAST HAWLEY ROAD	128,100
SKELTON, ROBERT	0 EAST ROAD	17,000
HERRSHAFT, WILLIAM & JUDITH	0 EAST ROAD	1,800
KLGSBRUN, EDWARD	0 EAST ROAD	188,500
BERKSHIRE EAST SKI RESORT	0 EAST ROAD	1,225,400
HOLM, LOIS	0 EAST ROAD	55,500

HUGHES, HELENA	0 EAST ROAD	89,600
MITIZIAK, BRUCE (ESTATE OF)	0 EAST ROAD	29,200
MAHA SIDDHA NYINGMAPA	0 EAST ROAD	2,500
CLARK, KEVIN	22 EAST ROAD	152,800
CHURCHILL, MICHAEL & RACHEL	26 EAST ROAD	161,500
LEVINE, PAUL	40 EAST ROAD	115,200
BILLIEL, DARLENE	42 EAST ROAD	128,400
ALBRIGHT, LINDA	43 EAST ROAD	221,800
SCHAEFER, JAMES R.	49 EAST ROAD	321,200
GRISWOLD, DANA	54 EAST ROAD	88,600
KIMBALL, CHRISTINE	58 EAST ROAD	198,200
KIMBALL, CHRISTINE	58 EAST ROAD	2,500
TEPEDINO, MICHAEL	131 EAST ROAD	510,900
SINGING BROOK FARM TRUST	0 FORGE HILL ROAD	47,100
FITZROY, ROBERT & DANIEL	0 FORGE HILL ROAD	6,700
GOSELIN, KENNETH & MARK	0 FORGE HILL ROAD	33,600
FITZROY, KIM	5 FORGE HILL ROAD	229,600
SHRIMPTON, CRAIG & PAMELA	10 FORGE HILL ROAD	57,500
SHRIMPTON, PAMELA & CRAIG	12 FORGE HILL ROAD	292,600
KOZODOY, NEAL & MAUD	0 FORGET ROAD	44,900
CORBOSIERO, ANNE MARIE	5 FORGET ROAD	172,400
GUILD, WILLIAM	21 FORGET ROAD	187,300
STEWART, HOLLY B.	26 FORGET ROAD	259,700
ABRASHKIN, WILLIAM	29 FORGET ROAD	36,000
NIGROSH, BARRY	29 FORGET ROAD	278,400
BRADY, EDWARD	30 FORGET ROAD	301,400
BRYANT, TANYA ZOE	35 FORGET ROAD	205,100
DONOVAN, IVAN & CYNTHIA	49 FORGET ROAD	443,500
LACINSKI, PAUL & KLIPPENSTEIN	58 FORGET ROAD	607,100
LACINSKI, PAUL & KLIPPENSTEIN	59 FORGET ROAD	286,800
BEGA, KATHRYN	86 FORGET ROAD	105,200
KOZODOY, NEAL	90 FORGET ROAD	488,600
GELINAS, MARY	97 FORGET ROAD	354,100
NELSON, RONALD	101 FORGET ROAD	234,300
HOPKINS, SUSAN & BERNARD	107 FORGET ROAD	236,400
MITCHELL, PETER	112 FORGET ROAD	275,400
KEAN, RICHARD	117 FORGET ROAD	185,600
KEAN, RICHARD	121 FORGET ROAD	402,900
AUBREY, SUZANNE	7 GROUT ROAD	165,500
BLAKESLEE, DUANE & LISA	20 GROUT ROAD	304,100
CLARK, BRIAN	0 HAWLEY ROAD	26,000
COOPER, PAUL R (TRUSTEE)	13 HOWES ROAD	479,100
DEFRIESSE, GEORGETTE	0 HUNT ROAD	29,000
MCNERNEY, MICHAEL	0 HUNT ROAD	29,000

WALCZAK, MARGARET	0 HUNT ROAD	29,000
BURSTEIN, MERWYN	0 HUNT ROAD	29,000
GURSKI, FRANK	0 HUNT ROAD	29,000
GOULD, RICHARD	3 HUNT ROAD	217,400
HYYTINEN, SHIRLEY	9 HUNT ROAD	204,500
SCOTT, JOHN	11 HUNT ROAD	183,500
DEFRIESSE, GEORGETTE	15 HUNT ROAD	119,700
DREHER, SARAH (ESTATE OF)	17 HUNT ROAD	70,800
AUBREY, TODD & BRIAN	19 HUNT ROAD	99,500
OHMANN, RICHARD M.	0 LABELLE ROAD	3,800
MILT, ELLEN	0 LABELLE ROAD	13,000
LABELLE, CURTIS W. & NORMA J.	0 LABELLE ROAD	2,200
KAPLAN, DAVID A.	0 LABELLE ROAD	72,900
OHMANN, RICHARD	53 LABELLE ROAD	268,700
KING, MICHAEL & EVELYN	62 LABELLE ROAD	375,800
BEARFOOT REALITY TRUST	80 LABELLE ROAD	236,600
HERBERT, KRING	19 LOWER FORGET ROAD	126,400
RANDALL, CHRISTOPHER & JULIA	0 MIDDLE ROAD	78,500
PURINTON, SCOTT	0 MIDDLE ROAD	7,300
TAYLOR, ROBERT & HOLT, PAT.	0 MIDDLE ROAD	1,500
PURINTON, SCOTT R. & ELLEN S.	0 MIDDLE ROAD	6,200
MACLEAN, ROBERT & JOANNE	25 MIDDLE ROAD	177,200
ATKINS, CARLOS	35 MIDDLE ROAD	238,700
TAYLOR, ROBERT	38 MIDDLE ROAD	165,100
PURDY, PETER & SUSAN	45 MIDDLE ROAD	161,500
STEJSKAL, JIRI & MARY	51 MIDDLE ROAD	90,300
SINGING BROOK FARM TRUST	53 MIDDLE ROAD	344,100
SINGING BROOK FARM TRUST	54 MIDDLE ROAD	346,100
COSBY, WILLIAMS & JOHNSON. L	59 MIDDLE ROAD	194,000
SMART, ELISE C & JOHN III	79 MIDDLE ROAD	229,700
GILLAN, DUNCAN & RUTH	81 MIDDLE ROAD	246,300
WEISBLAT, TINKY	84 MIDDLE ROAD	277,500
CLARK, LESLIE	92 MIDDLE ROAD	251,600
PYLE, DAVID & ELIZABETH	96 MIDDLE ROAD	282,800
ASHFIELD ROD & GUN CLUB	0 PLAINFIELD ROAD	2,800
ESTATE OF JOHN THOMPSON III	0 PLAINFIELD ROAD	400
SCHOFIELD, MICHAEL & TAMMY	3 PLAINFIELD ROAD	196,000
O'CONNOR, JANE	4 PLAINFIELD ROAD	229,700
SHAFFER, MARY	21 PLAINFIELD ROAD	151,500
SLOSSER, GAIUS BRANDT	23 PLAINFIELD ROAD	89,400
CARANTIT, JEFFREY & JULIE	38 PLAINFIELD ROAD	400,000
CHAFFEE, KENNETH & SHIELA	68 PLAINFIELD ROAD	272,300
SCOTT, RAYMOND	79 PLAINFIELD ROAD	163,700
SCOTT, JAMES	86 PLAINFIELD ROAD	230,100

AUSTIN, JUDITH	102 PLAINFIELD ROAD	262,900
MAPLESTONE, LLC	118 PLAINFIELD ROAD	339,200
COX, GREGORY	0 POND ROAD	18,600
POUDRIER, RAYMOND & MELANIE	0 POND ROAD	3,000
THWING, KIRBY & ELIZABETH	6 POND ROAD	157,000
COX, GREG & DRAVES, SUSAN	13 POND ROAD	189,900
THWING, KIRBY JR & ELIZABETH	15 POND ROAD	233,600
POUDRIER, RAYMOND	29 POND ROAD	416,700
VELAZQUEZ, JASON, REGINA & S.	7 PUDDING HOLLOW RD	115,100
SEARS, JOHN F. & RICHARD	0 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	25,900
SEARS, PAUL	0 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	28,000
WHITE, DOUGLAS	0 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	7,300
WHITE, MARK	0 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	12,800
CROSSIN, CLARA ESTATE	0 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	25,000
BECK, R. PETER & BERTSCH, KEN.	6 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	292,800
MCMULLIN, GEORGE & MARY	12 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	478,500
RICH, DAVID & SARAH	45 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	290,700
DEFOUGEROLLES, ANTONIN & P.	61 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	792,900
STERNSTEIN, JEROME & KATHRYN	73 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	187,800
SEARS, RICHARD & ILENE	87 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	296,000
SEARS, JOHN F.	100 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD	235,600
CUTLER, CHARLES	0 SAVOY ROAD	67,500
SEYMOUR, ROSANNE T.	2 SAVOY ROAD	169,900
CUTLER, CHARLES	22 SAVOY ROAD	318,000
DWIGHT, WILLIAM & LEWIS, LIDA	36 SAVOY ROAD	103,600
WHITE, MARK	0 SEARS ROAD	39,000
CHARLAND, JOYCE M	21 SEARS ROAD	157,700
LANOUE, NELSON & BRENDA	0 SOUTH RIVER ROAD	20,000
SHIELDS, THOMAS	0 SOUTH RIVER ROAD	14,000
OVITT, BRIAN	0 SOUTH RIVER ROAD	11,500
YATES, JEFFREY & LAURA	0 SOUTH ROAD	39,600
NEWELL, DAVID & VIRGINIA	0 SOUTH ROAD	29,400
TAVERN TOP TRUST	0 SOUTH ROAD	5,800
CLARK, CLIFFORD JR	0 SOUTH ROAD	48,400
CLARK, SARA & WALL, KENNETH	133 SOUTH ROAD	139,900
SHIPPEE, MURIEL	0 STETSON ROAD	48,000
ONDIS, PAUL	2 STETSON ROAD	99,400
BRISSETTE, BARBARA	7 STETSON ROAD	62,800
KELLOGG, BARBARA E.	9 STETSON ROAD	212,100
KIMBALL, STEPHEN & SUSAN	13 STETSON ROAD	183,500
MCCULLOCH, ANN	0 WATSON ROAD	600
SCHREIBER, THOMAS & SHIRLEY	0 WATSON ROAD	1,500
POPE, O. EARL	7 WATSON ROAD	255,300
GORMLEY, JUNE	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	36,000

BERTSCH, KENNETH & BECK, P.	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	1,800
STREETER, PAUL	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	79,600
NORCROSS, PAUL & RITA	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	30,500
DESMARAIS, DEAN F. & MARIA C.	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	39,000
WHITE, TEDD	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	44,200
NGUYEN, LEIM THANH	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	13,000
PURINTON, SCOTT R.	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	13,000
EICHHOLZ, MARY & TIMOTHY	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	3,900
SPOFFORD, BEVERLY	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	500
HOLMES, TOBY A.O.	0 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	32,300
WHITE, MARK	10 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	238,900
WHITE, TEDD	28 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	358,000
EGGERT, HENRY	48 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	294,000
GRODEN, SUZY & EMMETT, CON.	50 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	195,300
GRODEN, SUZIE & EMMETT, CON.	54 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	62,300
PURINTON, SCOTT & ELLEN	60 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	340,800
OLSON, SUSAN	70 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	238,800
FALWELL, RICHARD L & ANN J	74 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	92,100
DESMARAIS, DEAN	76 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	190,900
DESMARAIS, DEAN	76 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	81,700
DESROCHERS, JAMES & KATH.	90 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	165,000
LEMOINE, DONNA	94 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	84,800
LEMOINE, DONNA	96 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	57,000
STETSON, CHARLES & CYNTHIA	108 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	384,300
HANECAK, NANCY & VIENS, JOS	128 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	103,300
BENOIT, GERMAIN	136 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	188,000
PARENT, RICHARD & ELIZABETH	138 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	86,000
BONNETTE, DONALD	140 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	69,300
BONNETTE, DONALD	144 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	194,100
YOUMELL, DEBORAH & JAMES	197 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	29,900
CLARK, WAYNE & ROBIN	198 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	136,900
MACNICOLL, SAM. & STEVE	200 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	129,200
ROBERTS, BRYAN	201 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	290,200
MARX-SINGER, LORRAINE	213 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	188,600
DESMARAIS, DAVID	214 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	35,600
SOULE, PETER & CHRISTOPHER	228 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	252,500
BROWNE, MARGARET	232 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	348,400
HICKS, CHRISTINE & TIRONE, C.	240 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	185,000
GORMLEY, JUNE	264 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	323,400
SMITH, WILLIAM	282 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	201,000
LERNER, LYNNE	298 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	300,300
LAMOUNTAIN, ROBERT & PAT.	319 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	64,000
ROWEHL, GREGORY	324 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	203,100
LAMOUNTAIN, ROBERT & PAT.	325 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	48,400

HOYT, THOMAS & VIOLA	326 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	132,800
VAN BATENBURG, DEBORAH	330 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	55,700
SCHMITT, MICHAEL	334 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	116,000
DECKER, DOUGLAS & GLORIA	335 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	74,700
DECKER, DOUGLAS G. & GLORIA	336 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	71,300
HODGKINS, GUY & MARIE	337 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	93,000
STONE, ROBERT (ESTATE OF)	339 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	97,700
HOYT, WILLIAM	340 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	86,800
NORCROSS, PAUL D & RITA M	380 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	132,200
NORCROSS, PAUL & RITA	382 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	348,700
BIGELOW, MARK	390 WEST HAWLEY ROAD	182,800
BRADLEY, DOUGLAS & DEBORAH	0 WEST HILL ROAD	40,000
LARIVIERE, SUSAN	0 WEST HILL ROAD	22,000
PALMER, SHEILA	0 WEST HILL ROAD	31,000
DOYLE, KAREN	0 WEST HILL ROAD	20,000
BUTHMAN, NANCY & WAGNER, E.	0 WEST HILL ROAD	40,000
MCCARTHY, GERARD & LORRAINE	7 WEST HILL ROAD	220,000
RICE, GEORGE	20 WEST HILL ROAD	452,500
RICE, GAIL	28 WEST HILL ROAD	171,900
SAVOIE, JOSEPH & LINDA	40 WEST HILL ROAD	215,600
WRIGHT, MICHAEL & MEWIS, R.	43 WEST HILL ROAD	64,400
CRAWFORD, LLOYD & SUZANNE	63 WEST HILL ROAD	403,100
CRAWFORD, LLOYD & SUZANNE	64 WEST HILL ROAD	223,800
HARDING, ROBERT & CARDWELL	86 WEST HILL ROAD	647,400
CARLE, ROLF	91 WEST HILL ROAD	356,100
LARIVIERE, SUSAN	120 WEST HILL ROAD	133,900

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Greetings Hawleyites:

The Town of Hawley has had a good year: the last of the roads damaged by Tropical Storm Irene has been repaired, the town received grants to protect the town garage from future flooding, and citizens are working more harmoniously together to accomplish community goals. A committee appointed by the town moderator revised the proposed recall legislation tabled at the 2015 town meeting and townspeople approved the revised proposal at a special town meeting in the Fall. A solar by-law prepared by the Planning Board was tabled at the Fall meeting, but the Planning Board has appointed a sub-committee to try to come up with a solar bylaw that would gather wide support. The town voted not to borrow over a million dollars to bring fiber optic high-speed Internet connections to every home in town, but the town's Communications Committee has been researching alternatives with the help of a technical assistance grant the town received from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. The Selectboard is grateful to all of these committees for their many hours of work and their patience in seeking solutions to complicated issues. The town is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers serving on its committees.

In August, the town joined the Community Compact program initiated by Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. The program provides technical assistance and preference in applying for State grants to the communities that join. Being a member helped Hawley win a MassWorks grant last fall. Each member town selects one to three "Best Practices" that it wishes to implement under the program. Hawley chose "Maximizing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Opportunities" and "Financial Management: Creation of a budget document that transparently presents revenues, expenses and community priorities."

In regard to renewable energy, the Planning Board has received a grant to hire a consultant to carry out an ASHRE II audit in order to determine whether the town could meet the 20% reduction in energy use required by the Massachusetts GreenCommunities program and how this could be done. If the audit is positive, that would be an important step in making the town eligible for the Massachusetts State GreenCommunities

program. It would also tell the town how much money it could save by insulating the three town buildings, purchasing alternative heating equipment, and installing solar panels or other alternative energy generators. If the town were to become a Green Community, it would be eligible for a \$130,000 grant from the state to implement the plan. If this initiative succeeds, Hawley could save significant tax dollars over the long run. Should the Planning Committee and the Selectboard decide that it would be in the interest of the town to join GreenCommunities, voters will be provided with all the details of the program so that they can make the final decision at a town meeting.

In regard to “Financial Management,” Hawley’s Finance Committee is working on the transparent budget document as well as other ways of making Hawley’s financial situation easy to understand and in planning for the long term. In December, the Hawley Selectboard appointed Virginia Gabert to the new position of Financial Administrator. She will take on the functions of the Treasurer and will continue to serve as assistant to the Board of Assessors. Virginia has served the town for many years with great skill and wisdom. She worked closely with Charlie Stetson as Assistant Treasurer and is thoroughly familiar with the town’s finances and procedures. We feel very fortunate that she will continue to serve the town in her new capacity. In February, the Selectboard hired Cassandra (“Cass”) Nawrocki of Ashfield as Administrative Assistant to take over many of Virginia’s former duties, such as taking minutes at Selectboard meetings, drafting letters, answering the phone, filing, selling trash bags, and responding to the needs of committee members and townspeople. We welcome Cass to the town and look forward to working with her.

With the fall in the price of gasoline over the past year, the town saved more money than expected under the arrangement originally negotiated with H.M. Kuzmeskus by Charlie Stetson and David Newell allowing Hawley, Ashfield, Charlemont, and Plainfield to purchase gasoline from the Ashfield town garage for the vocational school vans rather than pay for it as part of the bus contract with Kuzmeskus. The four-town Vocational Education Advisory Committee is continuing work on streamlining the somewhat complex billing system for this service.

Hawley's greatest financial challenge now and into the future is the budgets for the Hawlemont and Mohawk schools. Hawley's school committee representative (Hussain Hamdan, Courtney Hoyt, and Sally Rich for Hawlemont and Lark Thwing and Suzanne Crawford for Mohawk) have been working hard with Michael Buoniconti and other school staff to cut this year's school budgets down to a size they feel the town can afford, while protecting the quality of education the schools provide. That is not an easy task, and the Selectboard is grateful for their efforts! Fortunately, the innovative agricultural curriculum at Hawlemont, which has strengthened the school and made it more attractive to school choice students from outside the district and will make it more likely that Hawlemont will retain students, has taken in a little more money than it cost, thanks to grants and volunteer labor. To seek sustainable solutions to budget problems at the middle and high school, the Mohawk school committee has appointed a Strategic Planning committee to build on the work of the Long Range Planning Committee, which submitted its report in January, 2015. Kim Orzechowski is serving as Hawley's representative to that committee.

Roads are the next most significant portion of the town budget. The Selectboard salutes the town highway crew for keeping the town's roads clear of snow and in good repair. The whole town is enormously grateful to Richard Gould, who has served the town with skill and devotion for forty years and will be retiring as Highway Superintendent in May. We wish him well in his retirement.

The repair of Forge Hill Road was completed in the fall of 2015, the lower part by Clayton Davenport Construction; the upper part by the town highway department. The road is now passable all the way through (except in the winter), although the town advises use of the road only by four-wheel drive trucks or SUVs. The town is now awaiting reimbursement for the project from FEMA and MEMA, which is expected to cover 100% of the cost.

The town received a \$262,970 grant from FEMA and an \$87,657 matching grant from MassWorks this fall to stabilize the bank above the town garage in order to protect the garage from future flooding. Together the two grants will cover 100% of the project cost. Milone & MacBroom, the engineering firm that prepared the plans for the project, are currently preparing the paperwork needed to obtain permits from the Conservation

Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The town expects the work to take place in the late summer or early fall.

Unfortunately, Middle and Hunt Roads in the Dubuque State Forest, which the town is not responsible for maintaining, remain unrepaired more than four years after Tropical Storm Irene. The Selectboard continues to press the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to make that project a priority and to appeal to Representative Paul Mark and Senator Ben Downing to make sure that DCR has the necessary funding to do the work.

Phil Keenan, who has served as a Hawley selectman for nearly twenty-four years, resigned on March 1, 2016 to take a job as a cook on a tall ship out of Baltimore. The Selectboard expresses its thanks for his many years of service by dedicating this town report to him. We wish him smooth sailing in his new adventure. We will miss him!

John F. Sears, Chairman, Hawley Selectboard
Robert MacLean, Selectman

Special message from the Board of Selectmen

There are vacancies on several of our town boards and committees that we are having difficulty filling. If you are interested in serving the Town, and being appointed to one of these positions, please notify the Board of Selectmen. Anyone interested in learning more can inquire at the Town Office, or contact one of the committee members directly.

On behalf of the Town, we would like to extend our appreciation to all those who have served the Town over the years, and welcome any newcomers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hawley Finance Committee is fully staffed. It is comprised of Lloyd Crawford, Jane Grant, Lark Thwing, Carla Clark and Tammy Schofield.

The committee has met numerous times in the past year. One of the challenges the town - faced was the loss of our new treasurer after only about a month. Betty Nichols stepped into that position in addition to her position as Tax Collector. There was a large learning curve.

The Finance Committee created *Financial Policy Guidelines* for the town's use. These Guidelines have been approved by the Selectboard and are now posted on the town website under the Finance Committee section.

We have also been creating a five-year history of the town budget and expenditures to be used as a budget planning tool. This year's Annual Town Report shows the new format for presenting the financial information and is grouped into like expense areas - Schools, Highway Dept., Fire, Police, General Administration, Debt etc. We hope it is easier to follow and understand. Direct any questions to Virginia or a member of the Finance Committee.

As town Auditor, Carla Clark reviewed the financials as resulted from the turnover of Treasurers. She found everything to be in order.

We remain a member of WiredWest, but after the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) vote last year not to fund any solution that cost \$1 million dollars, we have been pursuing a wireless solution. We and other small towns in similar positions are appealing to the Commonwealth for help in reducing the large financial burden the smallest towns are being asked to bear. This has proven to be an ongoing complex issue and will likely not be resolved for several more years.

Looking ahead:

We agreed in September 2015 to roll over the Tropical Storm Irene note for the final year and to go to bonding in Nov/Dec of 2016. By then we hope to have all the reimbursements from FEMA and MEMA. At that point, the town will owe about \$160,000 assuming Annual Town

Meeting (ATM) in May 2016 approves \$20,000 from Free Cash for this loan principal.

| In Oct 2015, Free Cash was certified at \$272,684. We hope Annual Town Meeting will agree to use this excess Free Cash to pay down the Tropical Storm Irene Note leaving us little or no storm debt.

In Dec 2015, Special Town Meeting (STM) accepted a grant from MASS WORKS for \$87,657, for the town's share of the river bank reinforcement behind the town garage.

The capital budget for 2017 will be about \$50,000, because in 2017, the town is committed to paying \$19,400 on the new fire pumper, \$10,169 on the new town pickup, and hopefully (?), \$20,000 to start paying down what the town owes on the Irene storm loan. Annual Town Meeting in | May 2016 may approve additional capital items. The Finance Committee normally tries to keep the capital budget at no more than \$50,000.

For those who are interested, minutes of all Finance Committee meetings are now being posted on the town website under Finance Committee Minutes. To learn more about the Role of the Finance Committee, visit the town website and click on the Finance Committee link or go to <http://www.townofhawley.com/?q=node/14>

Lark Thwing, Finance Committee Chair

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT 2015

Marriages:		0
Births:	1 Female	
Deaths:	2 Females	2 Males
Current number of residents:		351
Current number of registered voters:		270

Respectfully submitted, Pamela Shrimpton, Town Clerk

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Services to Hawley – 2015

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is a governmental body that serves and assists the municipalities of Franklin County as effectively and efficiently as possible. We provide regional and municipal services to our member towns using a diversity of funding sources and strategies. To learn about the FRCOG and the projects, products and services that we provide to the greater Franklin County region, please go to our web site, www.frcog.org, or refer to our Annual Report which can be found on the Publications page of our website. Over the course of the year we also provide specific services to every town. In 2015, the FRCOG provided the following individualized services to your town:

Administration and Special Projects

- Staff provided technical support to Greenfield's Veterans Services office on shared governance and communication to municipal stakeholders as the program transitioned to the county-wide Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans District.
- Groundwork began in late 2015 for a new project developing and implementing financial best practices for the Town under the State Community Compact Program.
- A resident attended the MBI Broadband Expansion informational meeting on April 22 at Ashfield Town Hall, which was co-coordinated by the FRCOG.

Cooperative Bidding & Purchasing Program

- Hawley participated in the Purchasing Program's cooperative bids and contracts for Dog Licenses & Tags.
- Hawlemont Elementary School participates in the cooperative Fire Alarm Testing contract.
- Staff attended the monthly Franklin County School Business Managers working group.
- The Town is eligible to participate in the Rental Equipment contracts and to purchase Hose and Testing Services as part of the new Fire Service cooperative bids.
- Procurement was provided for design services for Wood Pellet Boiler System at Hawlemont School.

Cooperative Public Health Service Health District

Hawley is a comprehensive member of the CPHS, a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS activities in Hawley during 2015 included:

- Hawley residents received 4 free tick tests in 2015 through a district grant, a savings of \$200. 35% of ticks tested in member towns carried the Lyme pathogen, and an additional 6% tested positive for either Anaplasmosis or Babesiosis. Staff provided tick prevention materials and helped residents access grant funded tick testing through the on-line system as needed.
- The district received a new FDA Food Safety Grant that will improve food inspection and data collection, and offer training to town residents and employees.
- Staff conducted 13 Title-5 (septic) related activities including Soil Evaluations for on-lot septic systems, septic system plan reviews including site visits, issuing Local Upgrade Approvals and DSCP (septic) permits, completing final inspections of septic system installations, and preparing Certificates of Compliance.
- Staff reviewed requests for BOH sign-off on Building Permits and ensured compliance with public health requirements.
- Staff provided coordinated vaccine and supplies for a Hawley and Charlemont Council on Aging Senior Center Flu Clinic serving 51 area residents with the help of community volunteers.
- Staff assisted with implementation of digital on-line permitting system and issued all annual and regular BOH permits.
- Staff provided services to attendees of monthly “Good Neighbors” food distribution at Charlemont Federated Church where 27 area residents made 62 visits with the nurse for health screening services.
- Staff conducted the routine food inspection and lodging inspection in compliance with State requirements.
- Staff held ten monthly “Second Tuesday” walk-in wellness clinics at Charlemont Federated Church where 11 area residents made 31 visits with the nurse for health screening services.
- Staff met with the Board of Health and provided technical assistance to the Board with the implementation of their local septic regulations and private well regulations, including

assisting homeowners to test their well water at the time of property transfer.

- Staff assisted two town residents with the permitting and complicated process for septic repairs in association with the Regional Housing Authority.
- At regularly scheduled clinics and wellness events, the Public Health Nurse provided town residents with reference materials and health self-management supplies such as medication schedules, pill sorters, personal health records and Files of Life provided by grants from Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Franklin County Home Care Corp.
- Staff provided medication and chronic disease self-management services throughout the year, holding regular hours for all district residents in four community sites. The nurse is also available for home visits for those who need this service.
- Staff offered mercury thermometer collection and exchange and sharps disposal and container exchange in collaboration with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Special portable sharps boxes were distributed to Highway Departments, Police, Fire, and EMS: 53 sharps containers and 12 thermometers were exchanged.
- Staff completed all state-mandated infectious disease investigation, reporting and case monitoring. Follow-up was provided as needed for 3 Hawley and 126 regional reported incidents of communicable illness.
- Staff coordinated vaccine and supplies assisting town officials from Charlemont, Hawley, Rowe, Heath and Monroe to implement a Hawlemont Region Emergency Dispensing Site drill flu clinic and animal rabies clinic. A total of 54 area residents were served with the help of GCC nursing students and community volunteers, and 21 pets were vaccinated.
- Staff is now available to provide counseling and advice for residents who think they may have been exposed to rabies.
- Due to significant reduction in state supplied vaccine, the CPHS Vaccine Program was substantially restructured to implement vaccine reimbursement in order to continue this valued public service.

- Staff responded to requests for program and regulatory information from the Board of Health or the Town, including assistance with permitting.

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program

- Staff issued 25 building permits, 17 electrical permits & 12 plumbing/gas permits for Hawley in 2015. Four (4) Certificates of Inspection were issued.

Partnership for Youth

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School administrators on results from 172 Mohawk students, representing 72% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal No Child Left Behind requirements for the school, enables the school to receive Safe and Drug Free Schools funding, and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.
- One staff member from Mohawk Trail Regional High School/Middle School was trained to deliver the LifeSkills program and is currently incorporating the program into the school curriculum.

Planning and Development Department

- Staff completed a Plan for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project for 11 West County towns including Hawley with specific recommendations and projects to support Natural Resource Based Economic Development, Forest Conservation & Municipal Financial Sustainability.
- Staff provided technical assistance to the Hawley Planning Board to develop a Solar Overlay Zoning Bylaw and GIS mapping.
 - Staff conducted one traffic count.

Regional Preparedness Program

- Staff conducted a review and an update of the *Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Plan* and ran quarterly contact drills and a site notification drill to test the Plan.
- With FRCOG assistance, a member of the Hawley Board of Health, the emergency management director, as well as other

officials from neighboring communities planned and executed a novel, combined rabies/flu clinic at Hawlemont Elementary School. The event also served as a drill for the *Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Plan*, which guided the personnel using the Integrated Command System. A total of 54 area residents were vaccinated for influenza and 21 animals were vaccinated for rabies.

- Through a state Community Innovation Challenge grant, FRCOG provided the fire department with a mobile data terminal to improve data collection during fire responses.

Workshops & Training

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions Hawley public officials, staff, and residents attended and the number in attendance:

Cooperative Public Health Service

- Annual Dinner/Training Meeting — 1

Selectboard Essentials

- You are the Boss: Personnel Legal Guidance for SB's — 1
- Minimum Contribution to Your School — 1
- Rural Funding Sources — 1

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2014

The Franklin Regional Retirement System is a government agency that serves the 492 retirees, 49 beneficiaries, 921 active employees, and 557 inactive members of the towns and agencies in Franklin County. We are organized under Chapter 34b, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. We receive oversight on the state level from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), which audits our operations and financial records every three years. We are also audited by independent auditors in the two intervening years, as well as a complete actuarial valuation every two years.

The retirement benefit we provide replaces participation in the Social Security system and is described as a “defined benefit”, which means that we pay monthly retirement benefits based on the age, salary, and number of years worked at the time a member of our system retires. To be a member, an employee in one of our government units must be working in a permanent position scheduled at 20 hours or more per week and earning \$5,000 or greater annually. Funding of these benefits begins with deductions from the member, and, combined with matching funds from the employing unit, are invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and indexed funds. Investment earnings are a large part of the funding of retirement benefits, and the allocation of those funds are spread to a variety of sectors to take advantage of positive activity as it occurs in each sector. Please make note of our investment performance percentages in the chart on the next page.

Up until 1988, we were a “pay-as-you-go” system. In 1988 it was legislated that we begin saving to become “fully funded” over the ensuing 40 years. Fully funded means we have enough in reserves to pay for all the current and future potential benefits of our present membership. At the end of 2014, we are 79% funded at 26 years (65%) into the 40 year mandate.

Our fiscal year is the calendar year, therefore our annual report is not filed until May of the subsequent year, and the information provided herein will be a year old by the time you read this. Current reports and information can be found on our website: www.FRRSMA.com.

What follows is a synopsis of our annual report, as filed with our State oversight commission, PERAC. The full PERAC report can be read on the “Finances” page of our website.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2015 was a quiet year for the Hawley Conservation Commission. The Commission monitored the reconstruction of Forge Hill Road adjacent to the Shrimpton's house as per the Order of Conditions that was issued for this project in 2014. This work was completed late in the year. Informal discussions were also held with regards to the planned bank stabilization project by the Town Garage.

We remind all town residents and property owners that the issuance of a building permit does not imply that wetlands permitting is not required. Also, many types of work that do not require a building permit are subject to regulation under the Wetlands Protection Act. We always suggest that you contact us early in the planning process and several months in advance, if possible, whenever you are contemplating work. An informal site visit can often identify issues that you need to keep in mind. We can assist you with paperwork for simple projects.

Submitted, Lloyd Crawford, Conservation Commission Chair



PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board focused on finishing the draft for an amendment to Hawley's Protective Bylaws that was to address Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Facilities. Input was solicited from town residents and property owners. A public hearing was held.

Advice/input from FRCOG's planning department and the state's Green Communities program was incorporated into the Town Meeting Draft.

Part of the amendment process was a proposal to create a new section of Hawley's Protective Bylaw that would establish a Site Plan Review process. Site plan Review is an information gathering method that is used by planning boards and zoning boards of appeals to make informed decisions when issuing special permits, variances, etc. As presented to the town, it would have only applied to large solar facilities. It could have later been required for other types of projects subject to a 2/3 vote by the town.

The whole measure was brought before a Special Town meeting in December and subsequently tabled.

The Planning Board also held informal discussions with Berkshire East about possible ways that new home construction could occur as part of their ongoing development of the resort.

Planning is a public process. The Board requires input from citizens and participation at public hearings and Planning Board meetings in order to develop proposals that accurately address the desires of the town. We urge you to contribute your suggestions to ways we could insure that Hawley remains a desirable place to live.

Submitted, Lloyd Crawford, Planning Board Chair

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The current members of the Historical Commission are Lark Thwing, John Sears, Ray Gotta, Bob Root, and Pam Shrimpton. All of the activities of the Historical Commission are conducted in cooperation with the Sons & Daughters of Hawley (SDH).

Report on the Sanford Tavern Archaeological Excavation, Summer 2014. Laura Masur completed her report on the excavation of the Sanford Tavern archaeological site during the summer of 2014 and submitted it to the State Archaeologist. The Historical Commission and SDH also have a copy. Like the reports on the two earlier digs, the illustrated report is thorough and beautifully presented. We have been very fortunate in the three young archaeologists who have worked with us on this project over the years. They have not only been very professional, but have been enthusiastic and effective teachers of the Mohawk and other high school students who participated in the digs. We thank Laura for all her excellent work. We also appreciate the financial support for this program provided by MassHumanities, the Mary Lyon Foundation, and those who contributed through Kickstarter.

Archives Organization & Preservation Project. In the spring of 2015 the Sons & Daughters of Hawley received a second \$1,000 grant from the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) Roving Archivist program to finance a return visit to the Grove by Rachel Onuf, the archivist who assisted us the year before. SDH also received a second grant (this time for \$300) from the Charlemont-Hawley Cultural Council to purchase additional acid-free file folders and boxes in which to store the historical documents and artifacts. Pam Shrimpton, Suzy Groden, Camille White, Alice Parker, and John Sears all put in time over the summer of 2015 sifting through photos, SDH records, letters, scrapbooks, and other documents in the archives in preparation for Rachel's visit. The group selected the documents worth keeping and organized them into labeled manila folders. We did not make as much progress as we had hoped, but we made a significant dent in the work. When Rachel came for her visit at the end of November, we reviewed what we had done with her, asked her questions that had arisen as we went through the material, and listened to her suggestions for our future work. She will be returning in the spring or early summer to help us set

up an online cataloging system, which will enable people to search the collection.

Renovation and Maintenance of Historic Buildings. The Historical Commission and SDH continue to maintain the East Hawley Meetinghouse and the Grove Building. Plans are currently being made to repair the most seriously damaged or missing plaster in the meetinghouse.

Lark Thwing and John Sears, Historical Commission



COUNCIL ON AGING

A grant from the Massachusetts Council on Aging covers the cost of events, newsletters, annual dues to the Charlemont Senior Center, and supplies for other programs. The events are generally free and we encourage all seniors to attend, meet neighbors and have fun. The more the merrier – suggestions are welcome.

We had a busy year. Some of the activities included: participation in the Charlemont's Fairground Annual Chowder Fest, a picnic at Mohawk State Forest in tandem with the Charlemont COA, an outdoor luncheon at the Cold River Café', pizza on the deck at Berkshire Pizzeria, free attendance to Yankee Doodle Days, and a partially sponsored railroad, boat and lunch excursion to Essex, CT with Shelburne Falls and Charlemont COAs.

Vouchers were sent to all Hawley Seniors for fruits and vegetables at Atherton Farms as were gift certificates to Averys store for personal use.

Sand buckets were available upon request, fruit baskets and or cards delivered to those with health problems, "Welcome Bags" to new residents, and wellness checks on shut-ins.

The Hawley-Charlemont COA and Board of Health help to sponsor the visiting nurse who is available at the Charlemont Senior Center on the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Light luncheons are offered for all Seniors on most Wednesdays at the Federated Church in Charlemont.

Joyce Charland resigned early this past year and Lisa Turner resigned late summer. They spent many years dedicated to Hawley Seniors and are sorely missed.

Submitted, Ann Falwell, Hawley Council on Aging

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Hawley Communications Committee was formed in early 2012 to build the Town website and to advise the Selectboard on matters related to the Internet and computerization. Later, the Committee was also given the charge to liaise with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and WiredWest, and to bring high-speed Internet (a.k.a. “Broadband”), first to the Town Office, and then to the town’s residents. This report will present specific items that relate to these activities in 2015 and early 2016, with a focus on the changes that have taken place since last year.

Focus in 2015 - 2016

During early 2015, the Communications Committee’s objectives changed:

1. The decision was made to convert the Town of Hawley Website, www.TownofHawley.com, to a new webserver and content management platform; and,
2. To implement high-speed Internet throughout the Town, taking advantage of the funding being made available by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).

Major Developments

1. The Website has been successfully converted to the new format, using Dreamhost as the web/email server and WordPress as the content management system (CMS). While there a few web pages yet to be built, the website is now totally in the Town’s control. It is still being developed and maintained entirely by volunteer members of the Communications Committee.
2. Broadband Internet at the Town Office – The fiber-optic-based Internet connection, which was made available to the Hawley Town Office as a Community Anchor Institution (CAI) under the auspices of the MBI Middle Mile program, is still in place and works for the most part without interruption. It regularly achieves its rated speeds of 5 megabits per second (mpbs) in both the upload and download configurations.

3. Liaison Activities – While we continue to be members of WiredWest, most of our focus is on exploring alternatives to fiber-optic cable. The current model is a hybrid system which deploys a small amount of cable but distributes most of the Internet signal via fixed wireless devices. Finding an alternative approach such as this one became necessary when the Town Meeting in May, 2015 voted a mandate NOT to spend anything close to the \$1,000,000 in bond funds that would be required to implement the all-fiber model.
4. The MBI Planning Grant – In the late fall of 2015, the Communications Committee submitted a Planning Assistance Grant application to MBI for \$5,000. That amount was approved, and the Committee, working with the Hawley Board of Selectmen, used it to pay for an engineering study by Mr. Fred Goldstein of Interisle Consulting of what would be required and what it would cost to install an effective fixed wireless system that would cover most of the Town, given Hawley’s unique terrain and population distribution. That study came back with a detailed plan and an all-up cost of under \$350,000 – which is a little less than 40% of the cost of the original MBI/WiredWest specification. We intend to use that plan as the basis for a formal proposal to MBI in the months ahead. If our proposal to MBI is approved, it’s very possible that construction of our new network could begin before the snow flies in 2016.
5. Information Sharing Meetings – To facilitate our exploration of hybrid and wireless alternatives to the deployment of fiber optic cable, the Committee has taken the initiative to pull together a series of meetings of a group of Towns with similar objectives and interests. Other Towns that attend on a regular basis include Royalston, Middlefield, New Marlboro and Savoy. The purpose of these meetings is to share technical information and implementation strategies, and they are seen by the participants as valuable and helpful. We expect these gatherings to continue.

The Committee

The Hawley Communications Committee is currently comprised of six members:

Rick Kean, Chair
Hussain Hamdan
Craig Shrimpton, MBI Liaison
Pamela Shrimpton
Greg Rowehl
LarkThwing, WiredWest Delegate, and MLP
Superintendent

All Committee appointments are for one year, and we are open to new members from time to time.

The Future

As we continue to grapple with the issue of how best to deploy High Speed Internet in Hawley, we expect the balance of 2015-2016 to be a very busy time for our Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Kean, Hawley Communications Committee

CHARLEMONT-HAWLEY CULTURAL COUNCIL

The year 2015 was productive for the Charlemont/Hawley Cultural Council—or, as we in town like to call it, the Hawley-Charlemont Cultural Council. We distributed most of the \$8600 in state funds allocated to our towns for the 2014 grant cycle; a couple of grantees asked for, and were given, permission to postpone their projects until 2016 so the remaining funds will go out this coming year.

Highlights among funded programs during the year included several Hawlemont School events, a bicentennial program at the Charlemont Senior Center, local theatrical productions, a Sunday series at the Tyler Memorial Library, and musical events like Mohawk Trail Concerts' summer program and a community SING with Alice Parker.

The Council met in early November to deliberate what to do with the \$8800 awarded by the state for 2016. We look forward to another slate of excellent programs. These will include several school activities, the Hilltown Youth Summer Workshop, fine-art projects, and musical events.

A full list of programs our towns have funded, as well as our local guidelines and other information, may be found at <http://www.mass-culture.org/Charlemont-Hawley#>. Our emphasis is on programs that take place in our two-town area, and we are politically neutral as required by the state: that is, we do not take politics into consideration when making decisions about grants.

New this year is a Facebook page for the Cultural Council, started and maintained by outgoing chair Peter Beck. It may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/charlemonthawleyculturalcouncil>.

Every third year we turn to the residents of Hawley and Charlemont for feedback from townspeople, and it has been three years since our last request for your input. We will have postcards reminding you about this at Annual Town Meeting. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact any member of the council (in Hawley: Peter Beck, Joanne MacLean, Pamela Shrimpton, and Tinky Weisblat; in Charlemont: John Hoffman, Esther Purinton, Andrea Santos, and Julia White) with your comments.

It is a pleasure to be able to help our towns support the arts in our communities. We encourage all townspeople to attend as many of the events funded by the towns of Hawley and Charlemont as possible.

Respectfully submitted, Tinky Weisblat, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Hawley Personnel Committee is relatively new, having been formally created by the Hawley Selectboard in 2014. However, it has its antecedents in the Ad Hoc Job Description Committee, which was established in early 2013 with the sole purpose of updating Position Descriptions for the various job roles within the Town. During its existence, that committee crafted updated descriptions for Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector and Auditor.

In the wake of Charles Stetson's resignation as Treasurer/Tax Collector in June, 2014, the Selectboard asked the Job Description Committee to take on the task of recruiting replacements. This task, which took up most of the Committee's time in 2014 - 2015, led in turn to an eventual reorganization of job roles, resulting in the current positions of Financial Administrator, Tax Collector and Administrative Assistant.

In August, 2014, the Committee proposed to the Selectboard that its name be changed to the Hawley Personnel Committee, that it encompass the full status of an advisory committee to the Selectboard, and that its scope of work be broadened, to include: Position Descriptions; Personnel Policy updates and interpretation; and, Candidate search, screening and new employee orientation. That proposal was subsequently accepted by the Selectboard.

The Committee

The Hawley Personnel Committee currently consists of three members:

Rick Kean, Chair; John Sears; and Lark Thwing

The Committee would like to add two more members to its ranks during 2016. The Hawley Personnel Committee meets on an as-needed basis. All meetings are posted on the Town Website and at the Town Office, and minutes are taken.

The Committee's focus for the balance of 2016 - 2017 will be on: New Job Descriptions for the Highway Department; Modernization of the town Personnel Policy; Search and Recruiting, if needed; and, other "Personnel" issues as directed by the Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Kean , Hawley Personnel Committee

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2015, the Hawley Fire Department had a fairly average year with 40 calls, up from 31 in 2014, including 2 chimney fires, 1 rescue, 26 medical calls, 7 calls for wires or trees down, as well as 4 calls to help other towns with fires there.

Our firefighters recertified their First Responder and CPR training last spring, and took part in 3 joint drills with Charlemont, Rowe, Heath & Colrain. We also spent time training on truck and pump operation, and using our ATV for off road rescues.

Firefighters assisted with the Berkshire Highlands Pentathlon in April, the Bonefrog Challenge at Berkshire East in May, the Tri State Trail Riders in August, and with the truck pulls at Cummington Fair in August. In November we cleaned chimneys at houses in East and West Hawley.

During the fall, we spent some nights working on building storage at the West Hawley station for firefighters turnout gear, and other items. We also spent some time improving the upstairs at the East Hawley station for use in training and as the town's Emergency Operations Center.

We successfully applied for a \$700 state grant to help equip 3 firefighters with brush fire gear. We have also applied for a \$25,000 federal grant to replace 1,000 feet of hose, four nozzles, a portable pump and 8 air bottles. We also renewed the town's radio licenses.

Last year we worked with the selectmen to seek changes in state ambulance regulations to keep Charlemont ambulance operating, and we provided information to the planning board about what would be needed to ensure emergency access for a possible development near Berkshire East off East Road.

We still need to upgrade the East Hawley fire station to add space and comply with federal and state laws. When it was built in 1984, it was designed to hold fire trucks as were built in the 1970's. Because modern fire trucks like our new pumper are much longer, we will need at least one longer equipment bay to give us more options in housing trucks in the future. We also need to install a bathroom and septic system, and a

ground level training room. We would also like to make the building more energy efficient, and to install a sprinkler and alarm system to protect the town's investment.

In 2016 we are spending our winter training on firefighter topics in anticipation of doing a series of drills this spring at a house that soon be demolished. If we get permission from the Department of Environmental Protection, we may oversee the burning of the house as part of a multi-town drill later in May.

Hawley firefighters will also be training in the use of Narcan which is used to counter heroin overdoses. This is a problem that hasn't yet occurred in Hawley, but we want to be prepared should the need arise. We have applied to the Department of Public Health for the required permits to buy and use Narcan, and will hold training for our emergency personnel once those permits are approved.

Anyone who'd like to learn more about serving as a firefighter or EMT should come to the East Hawley station on Thursday nights at 7:30, or call me at 339-5526. We have added 4 firefighters in the past 2 years, but we could use more, particularly from East Hawley.

Being a volunteer firefighter or EMT gives you a chance to help your neighbors when emergencies arise: whether it is putting out a chimney fire or helping someone who is having trouble breathing, or even rescuing a horse from a pond. It also provides young people employable job skills – many of our alumni are employed today as EMTs, paramedics or firefighters in other towns, using skills they first learned in Hawley.

Respectfully submitted, Gregory Cox, Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER - March 2016

Chief Greg Cox

Assistant Chief Bob Root

Captain Chris Tirone

Lieutenant Dan Hoyt

Firefighters

Jane Grant

Doug Hoyt

Justin Kimball

Hussain Hamdan

Courtney Hoyt

Mike Poirier

Junior Firefighters Brandon Root

EMTs Justin Kimball

The Fire Department wants to remind residents to make sure that your smoke and CO detectors are working. State law requires all homes to have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to warn inhabitants of possible fires or toxic conditions. If your detectors are powered by batteries, replace them every year so they continue to operate. The life you save may be your own.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hawley made progress in 2015 toward improving its emergency response capabilities. Here's a report on what was done:

- We used a \$3,900 MEMA grant to upgrade and make the town's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at the East Hawley fire station more efficient. We were able to replace the printer/fax, purchase window fans to improve summer ventilation, buy folding work tables to allow different configurations and work areas to be set up during emergency operations, install a pull down screen to project maps or photos, and get 5 new status boards to help anyone staffing the EOC to track and manage emergency operations more efficiently.

- We worked with Rowe, Charlemont, Heath and Monroe to put on an Emergency Dispensing Site drill and flu clinic at the Hawlemont School in November to meet the federal requirements for EDS preparedness.
- We applied for a \$2,200 MEMA grant to purchase some replacement pagers and pay for satellite internet for use in training and emergency operations at the EOC. Satellite internet isn't as useful as broadband (particularly during storms when satellite transmissions may be affected), but as no way has been found to get the town wired for broadband, we have to settle for satellite until a higher speed internet becomes available.

Upgrading the EOC will benefit us when the next serious event occurs, but **we need more East Hawley residents to become trained in operating the EOC**. During major events like Hurricane Irene, we need people at the EOC to answer calls from residents and Shelburne Control, use the radios to dispatch or talk with our emergency responders, and road crew, and keep track of the status of roads, bridges, power, and other infrastructure. This frees up firefighters and other responders to deal with emergency situations as they arise.

If you'd be willing to help, please call me at 339-5526.

Gregory Cox, Emergency Management Director

A good online resource for preparing for and handling emergencies:
www.westernmassready.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-two member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2015 shows almost an identical amount compared to 2014. District residents recycled over 1,700 tons of paper and over 1,100 tons of mixed containers, which were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. Although market prices for recyclables remained low all year, District towns received a total of \$40,000 in revenue for their recyclables.

In 2015, the District sponsored spring and fall “Clean Sweep” collections for bulky items, electronics, tires, appliances, and anything too big to fit into a trash bag. Over 66 tons of material was recycled or disposed of from the two collections. A total of 590 households participated in these collection events.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in October 2015. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 347 households participated in this event. 48% of participants were using the collection for the first time.

We received a \$20,000 grant from the State to set up food waste diversion programs in area schools. We also helped member towns implement \$12,000 worth of small-scale initiative grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

We baled over 10 tons of wood pellet bags and agricultural plastic in our first year of this new recycling program. We continue to manage the recycling and composting program at the Franklin County Fair and to assist other events with waste reduction efforts. We continue to work in

each school system helping with waste management bids and with fostering sustainable waste reduction programs.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

In 2015, to greater serve our veterans, Hawley joined the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District housed in Greenfield. They maintain an extensive Resource and Referral Center and an impressive list of satellite locations throughout the area.

The District's mission statement:

To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels.

To assist in obtaining federal benefits, which can include:

- Filing for compensation and non-service connected pensions
- Obtaining gravestones and markers
- VA Healthcare
- Obtaining military records

MGL Ch. 115 provides financial, fuel and medical assistance and a host of other services to qualified individuals. This office also provides referral services for areas regarding homelessness, health, education and employment.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Tirone, Representative to the Veterans Service Center
Kevin Richardson, Co-Representative to the Veterans Service Center



COOPERATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Hawley is a comprehensive member of the CPHS, a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS activities in Hawley during 2015 included:

- Hawley residents received 4 free tick tests in 2015 through a district grant, a savings of \$200. 35% of ticks tested in member towns carried the Lyme pathogen, and an additional 6% tested positive for either Anaplasmosis or Babesiosis. Staff provided tick prevention materials and helped residents access grant funded tick testing through the on-line system as needed.
- The district received a new FDA Food Safety Grant that will improve food inspection and data collection, and offer training to town residents and employees.
- The Regional Health Agent conducted 13 Title-5 (septic) related activities including Soil Evaluations for on-lot septic systems, septic system plan reviews including site visits, issuing Local Upgrade Approvals and DSCP (septic) permits, completing final inspections of septic system installations, and preparing Certificates of Compliance.
- The Regional Health Agent reviewed requests for BOH sign-off on Building Permits and ensured compliance with public health requirements.
- The Public Health Nurse provided coordinated vaccine and supplies for a Hawley and Charlemont Council on Aging Senior Center Flu Clinic serving 51 area residents with the help of community volunteers.
- Staff assisted with implementation of digital on-line permitting system and issued all annual and regular BOH permits.
- The Public Health Nurse provided services to attendees of monthly “Good Neighbors” food distribution at Charlemont

Federated Church where 27 area residents made 62 visits with the nurse for health screening services.

- The Regional Health Agent conducted the routine food inspection and lodging inspection in compliance with State requirements.
- The Public Health Nurse held ten monthly “Second Tuesday” walk-in wellness clinics at Charlemont Federated Church where 11 area residents made 31 visits with the nurse for health screening services.
- The Regional Health Agent met with the Board of Health and provided technical assistance to the Board with the implementation of their local septic regulations and private well regulations, including assisting homeowners to test their well water at the time of property transfer.
- The Regional Health Agent assisted two town residents with the permitting and complicated process for septic repairs in association with the Regional Housing Authority.
- At regularly scheduled clinics and wellness events, The Public Health Nurse provided town residents with reference materials and health self-management supplies such as medication schedules, pill sorters, personal health records and Files of Life provided by grants from Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Franklin County Home Care Corp.
- The Public Health Nurse provided medication and chronic disease self-management services throughout the year, holding regular hours for all district residents in four community sites. The nurse is also available for home visits for those who need this service.
- The Nurse offered mercury thermometer collection and exchange and sharps disposal and container exchange in collaboration with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Special portable sharps boxes were distributed to Highway Departments, Police, Fire, and EMS: 53 sharps containers and 12 thermometers were exchanged.
- The Public Health Nurse completed all state-mandated infectious disease investigation, reporting and case monitoring. Follow-up was provided as needed for 3 Hawley and 126 regional reported incidents of communicable illness.

- The Public Health Nurse coordinated vaccine and supplies assisting town officials from Charlemont, Hawley, Rowe, Heath and Monroe to implement a Hawlemont Region Emergency Dispensing Site drill flu clinic and animal rabies clinic. A total of 54 area residents were served with the help of GCC nursing students and community volunteers, and 21 pets were vaccinated.
- Public Health Nurse is now available to provide counseling and advice for residents who think they may have been exposed to rabies.
- Due to significant reduction in state supplied vaccine, the CPHS Vaccine Program was substantially restructured to implement vaccine reimbursement in order to continue this valued public service.
- Staff responded to requests for program and regulatory information from the Board of Health or the Town, including assistance with permitting.

Hawley's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2015 were Phil Keenan, Board of Health member, and Virginia Gabert, Town Administrator. For more information about the Board or the district, visit www.frcog.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE BUILDING INSPECTION PROGRAM

As you know, your town receives building, plumbing, gas, and wiring inspection and zoning enforcement services through the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP), a thirty-nine year old shared service housed at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). We thank your town for your continued participation in the FCCIP, which allows small towns to have access to professional staff and state-of-the-art technology.

2015 was a busy year, permit wise, for the program. We issued 2,741 permits, including a significant number of insulation upgrade, solar array and wood/pellet stove permits. The number of permits was higher in 2015 than in the previous year, the fees collected were also slightly higher. A total of 24 new dwelling units were constructed in our 15 member towns.

Our new online permitting program went live on July 1, 2011 and has issued 10,735 building, electrical & plumbing/gas permits since then. The program allows you to apply, pay for, and track the progress of any permit online, saving you time and visits to our office in Greenfield. The program has 3,573 registered users. You can find it at www.frcog.org under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. Our website also includes helpful information on inspection requirements, permit costs, and contractor licensing.

In 2015, the FCCIP processed the following permits for Hawley:

Residential Building Permits	24
Commercial Building Permits	1
Sheet Metal/Duct Permits	0
Electrical Permits	17
Plumbing Permits	5
Gas Permits	7
Certificates of Inspection	4

We would like to remind all residents of the importance of applying for permits for work done. Building, Electrical and Plumbing/Gas permits

are required by law and are an essential step in ensuring the safety of our communities. Please feel free to call our office with any building or zoning questions at 774-3167, extension 2.

James D. Hawkins, Building Commissioner
James Cerone, Building Inspector
Andy French, Plumbing/Gas Inspector
Tom MacDonald, Electrical Inspector



REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT HAWLEMONT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hawlemont began 2015 facing a significant set of challenges and finished the year poised for a very bright future. At the beginning of 2015, Hawlemont had slipped into Level 3 classification according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE); the financial sustainability of the school was increasingly in question; and the leadership of the school was in transition. Hawlemont ended 2015 in a far better place- student achievement on the 2015 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test advanced Hawlemont into Level 2 classification; the HAY Program (Hawlemont, Agriculture, and You) was beginning to take root; and the new principal was off to a great start with the entire Hawlemont school community. What a difference one year can make!

Based on 2014 MCAS results, Hawlemont was among the lowest performing 20% of schools in the Commonwealth with a percentile ranking of 16. All of us within the Hawlemont school community needed to do better. The Hawlemont team, ranging from teachers to administrators to parents to School Committee, all worked conscientiously together to improve the quality of education in our classrooms to support our students. The outcome of this team effort was remarkable. Hawlemont's 2015 MCAS results showed impressive improvement in both English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The percentage of Hawlemont students who scored proficient or higher in ELA improved 15%, and the percentage of students who scored proficient or higher in math improved 12%. This strong performance doubled Hawlemont's school percentile from 16 to 32, which improved Hawlemont's classification to a Level 2 school. We are striving to continue this positive momentum into the future. Level 1 is our goal!



Hawlemont's HAY program, which uses agriculture as a vehicle to deliver traditional English, math, science and social studies curriculum, began its first full-year of



implementation. While the entire staff was involved in the development of fun, hands-on HAY projects for the students, teacher Jeanne Bruffee was recognized as the MassAgScience Teacher of the Year for 2015 by the nonprofit Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom organization. Congratulations to Jeanne and the entire Hawlemont staff!

During early 2015, Hawlemont hired a new principal- Mr. Wayne Kermenski. Mr. Kermenski had previously worked at Mohawk Trail



Regional School as a science and project-based learning teacher. His skills and experience were a perfect match for Hawlemont and its budding HAY program. Under Principal Kermenski's leadership, Hawlemont's curriculum is blossoming. For example, Hawlemont 5th graders noticed that there was too much

trash at Hawlemont and started a composting program to reduce the waste. Math was integrated into this program by weighing the trash and tracking the data over time. We are looking forward to tracking the results of this composting program during 2016 and hoping to reduce the amount of our trash, which would be good not only for our environment, but also for Hawlemont's bottom line!

With student learning significantly improved, an innovative hands-on curriculum well under way, and a dynamic new principal in place, Hawlemont finished 2015 with a great deal of confidence and optimism about the future. On behalf of our students, I thank our entire school community for your dedicated support of our children's education. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Buoniconti, Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

With the introduction of a half-day, district-wide preschool program, Mohawk experienced an enrollment increase of 50 students in 2015. Continuing a 3-year positive trend, the quality of education within the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) rose considerably. According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the MTRSD is classified as a Level 2 district with all of its schools classified as Level 1 or Level 2. There are five classification levels within the Commonwealth's system with Level 1 being the highest rating. The MTRSD is striving to become one of the higher performing school districts in Massachusetts by achieving a Level 1 classification, which requires all of our schools to be Level 1. With all Mohawk schools improving significantly in 2015, the year marked another significant step toward the MTRSD realizing this ambitious goal.

Mohawk District Highlights: Level 2

The percentage of Mohawk students achieving a rating of proficient or higher in English Language Arts (ELA) improved to 76%, reflecting a 9% improvement over the past four years. Mohawk students made gains in all three major content areas. Our ELA composite performance index (CPI) improved to 91.6; our mathematics CPI improved to 82.6; and our science CPI improved to 81.1. In both ELA and math, Mohawk's student growth percentile exceeded the state median of 50.

Mohawk Middle School-High School Highlights: Level 2 (School Percentile 46)

Mohawk's graduation rate rose to 86.5%, marking an 11% increase over the past five years. Of the graduates, approximately 80% plan to attend a 4-year or a 2-year college. On the SAT college entrance exams, Mohawk students outperformed the state average in reading, writing and math.

Mohawk MS-HS achieved a school percentile ranking of 46, which is a 19-point improvement over the past three years. 90% of Mohawk 10th graders scored at the proficient or advanced level in ELA. 62% of Mohawk 10th graders scored at the advanced level in math compared to a 53% state-wide average. Mohawk 10th graders also outperformed the

state-wide average in science and technology/ engineering. Mohawk's 7th graders achieved student growth percentiles of 63 in ELA and 67 in math, far higher than the state median of 50.

The Mohawk MS-HS athletic program continued to flourish during 2015 with 38 teams and 20 sports, including the introduction of wrestling. Approximately 50% of the students participated in at least one sport, and 44% participated in multiple sports. The Mohawk MS-HS music and theater programs were also vibrant with impressive levels of student participation.

Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School: Level 1 (School Percentile 56)

BSE continued to perform at a very high level in 2015, achieving a second consecutive classification as a Level 1 school. Additionally, BSE's school percentile improved a whopping fourteen points to the 56th percentile. Over the past five years, BSE has improved from a Level 3 classification to Level 1 and tripled its school percentile ranking! In tandem with this educational success, BSE's enrollment has increased 32% from 197 to 259.

Sanderson Academy. Level 2 (School Percentile 58)

Sanderson remained a very high performing school with a percentile ranking of 58. For the first time in the school's history, Sanderson offered preschool. The community response was compelling with approximately forty 3-year old and 4-year old students enrolling, which more than doubled the District's forecast. As a result, we needed to add a second preschool class to accommodate the demand, and Sanderson's enrollment increased 17% to 149 students!

Colrain Central School. Level 2 (School Percentile 35)

Colrain students performed very well for the second consecutive year, which improved the school percentile ranking five points to 35. 72% of the students scored proficient or higher in ELA, which is a 39 point improvement over the past two years. Similarly, 67% of the students scored proficient or higher in math, which is a 23 point improvement over the same time frame. Both Colrain's ELA and math proficiency rates exceeded the state-wide average.

Heath Elementary School. Level 1 (School Percentile 59)

Heath Elementary achieved its third consecutive year of Level 1 classification, which is the best in the district. 73% of the students scored proficient or higher in ELA, which is a fifteen point improvement over the prior year. 67% of the students scored proficient or higher in math. Both Heath's ELA and math proficiency rates also exceeded the state-wide average.

In 2015 the introduction of a half-day, district-wide preschool program reversed a long term trend of declining enrollment in the MTRSD. Additionally, all of our district schools improved significantly, resulting in classifications of Level 1 or Level 2 and several percentile rankings approaching 60, which is unprecedented. Our students, staff, families, administrators and school committee deserve a great deal of credit for this continued high level of educational success. Our townspeople and town officials also deserve a great deal of credit for their ongoing support of our schools, which is essential to the MTRSD's continued success.

On behalf of our students, I thank our entire school community for your dedicated support of our children's education. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Buoniconti, Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL HAWLEMONT REGIONAL SCHOOL

Hawlemont Regional School is a community of learners with a vision that everyone will flourish through positive emotions, active engagement, strong relationships, undertaking meaningful work, and accomplishments. Our mission is Hawlemont Regional School provides students with high quality education including experiential learning and in partnership with families and community. Currently, our enrollment is 101 students, which includes preschool through Grade 6.

We are pleased to announce that the following students will be graduating from Hawlemont Regional School in June of 2016: Jakob Bower, Christopher Charette, Kyle Crowningshield, Nicholas Forbes, Madison Jackson, Madeleine Locke, Robert Locke, Nayana Marmaras, Tyler Matteson, Sarina Mead, Esther Rancourt, Travis Russell, Austin Sullivan, Logan Underwood, and Caitlin Upton.

During this, my first year as the principal, the classroom assignments for the 2015-2016 school year are as follows: Preschool: Holly Taylor, Kindergarten: Sue Mead, First Grade: Samantha Baker, Second Grade: Michelle Gajda, Third Grade: Sarah Sookey, Fourth Grade: Amber Tulloch, Fifth Grade: Jennifer Sinistore, Sixth Grade: Stephen Bechtel, Title I: Jeanne Bruffee, and Special Education Marge Gilbert.

We have five paraprofessionals who provide additional support in the classrooms. We have a secretary, custodian, nurse, cafeteria manager and cafeteria assistant. Mary Boehmer is our part-time librarian who works with small groups or entire classes five days a week. Hawlemont Regional School is fortunate to offer many after school programs. These programs are run by teachers, volunteers and the PTO and include four 4-H clubs, 8:00 morning Library Club, after school Homework Help and seasonal sports.

The staff at Hawlemont School believes in providing our students with field research experiences. In September, grades 3-6 were able to spend a day at the Big E and participated in the AgriScience Teaching Award ceremony for Jean Bruffee. The Charlemont and Hawley Cultural Council have provided grants for students to attend the Freedom Train

and Skippyjon Jones performances at the UMass Fine Arts Center. In addition, students will attend a Reptile Encounters Demonstration by the Springfield Museum on the Go and tour of the renewable energy systems located at Berkshire East.

Our spring MCAS scores continue to display student growth in the areas of Mathematics and English language arts and Hawlemont moved from Level 3 up to Level 2 status. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. Our school's Local Educational Council, which is comprised of three parents, one teacher, one community representative and me, approved a school improvement plan that focused on the following areas: Effective Instruction, Aligned Curriculum, Student Assessment, and Professional Development and Structures for Collaboration. Our teachers and staff have been engaged in a variety of professional development topics this year. We are currently in our third year of implementation of the new educator evaluation system. Staff created SMART goals, wrote educator plans with specific benchmarks, and were evaluated regularly.

In June of 2015 the Hawlemont Regional School completed the infrastructure for our Agriculture Program. This program would not exist without the help from our community. We now have a barn with a cow, two sheep, two goats and a pig. Our greenhouse will be utilizing Elliot Coleman's Four Season Harvest principles starting this spring. The program has proven to be financially stable by selling goods and holding fundraisers. It has helped raise thousands of dollars for Agriculturally based classroom materials. These materials include: KidWind wind turbine kits, Onset temperature/light probes, blank books for creating children books, soil testing kits and many science based reading supplies. Congratulations to all who made this dream a reality.

Once again, I would like to thank the teachers, staff, parents, students, and community members for all of their hard work and dedication to making this a great school! I look forward to 2016 and all that it holds for our school.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Kermenski, Principal

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Of the 83 members of the Class of 2015, 60% went on to a four-year college and 25% went on to a two-year college. Collaboration, creative problem-solving, and community-building are important to the classroom and extracurricular learning experiences students have at Mohawk.

Reflecting our commitment to enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning opportunities, our middle school Project-Based Learning (PBL) courses are now STEM courses, with a continued emphasis on project-based, cooperative, and interdisciplinary learning but with increased focus on problem-solving and collaboration with science, technology, engineering, and math applications. These middle school courses provide students with hands-on learning experiences with local and global connections, as 7th grade students produced maple syrup from over 30 gallons of sap harvested from trees on campus, and 8th grade students created 3-dimensional playhouses designed to fold to fit into a 9" x 12" mailing envelope that was delivered to children in Haiti, for instance. In the high school we introduced a Robotics course this year, where students develop computer programming skills through robotics applications. Many of our math teachers are using Inquiry-Based Learning approaches to math instruction, where students are engaged in problem-solving inquiry facilitated by their teachers.

Our school has embraced the use of community-building circles and restorative practices. Restorative Justice, often referred to as Restorative Practices, allows students to resolve conflicts and repair harm that has occurred within a community, through communication, reflection, and making changes in practice. Schools in this area and across the country have been transitioning to this evidence-based approach over the past few years. This year we established the Restorative Justice Classroom (RJC) to support students with this process and our faculty has begun using community-building circles in various settings.

Alumni connections continue to enrich the Mohawk experience. This year's commencement speaker was Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz, Mohawk Class of 1984. Recent graduates returned to school

to share their experience with the transition to college and alumni have participated in an occasional speaker series to discuss their career paths.

Mohawk's Student Council has taken on an increasing role in promoting an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students. This year's Booster Week activities and Bullying Prevention Week events reflected student initiative and commitment to creating a caring and compassionate school culture.

The role of our faculty and staff in school-wide leadership initiatives has grown as we have expanded the use of Professional Learning Communities and established an Instructional Leadership Team composed of staff, both teachers and paraprofessionals, who work with the Principal, Assistant Principal, and Curriculum Director to plan professional development and facilitate school-wide planning. Mohawk Arts Education Council, comprised of educators dedicated to enhancing the role of the arts at Mohawk, has taken on an increasing role, with vibrant programming evident in the visual arts displays within our school, diverse music programs with many public performances, and a wide variety of theatrical productions, including a student-directed adaptation of "The Breakfast Club" in addition to the annual musical and fall and late spring dramatic performances.

At the midpoint of the 2015-2016 school year, enrollment in grades 7-12 is 450. The seventh grade has 95 students and the eighth grade has 68. There are 75 students in the ninth grade, 71 in the tenth grade, 60 students in the junior class, and 81 students in the senior class. Four students are enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn R. Dole, Principal

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PUPIL SERVICES

The districts continue to support and provide students with an identified disability an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan. An IEP provides direct service with accommodations and modifications. A 504 Plan provides accommodations that allow a student access to the general curriculum. The district continues to increase the use of Response to Intervention (RTI). This model enables schools to provide support to students based on regular assessment and data aimed at targeting more specific areas of concern or need. A student does not require an IEP or a 504 to benefit from RTI. The most recent MCAS data indicated that our students in the high needs population showed growth in their progress this year. This is a direct result of the support and direct instruction via an IEP, 504 and tiered instruction.

For many years the district has supported several substantially separate programs for students requiring a higher level of instruction and support. Historically, a student requiring this level of education may be placed in an out of district school at a high cost to the district. Research suggests that each time a student is placed outside of their home district, it decreases their investment in their education. Out of district placements are made only when all other options have been explored and assessed. The district currently has the following programs:

- **MSC** (Mohawk Supported Classrooms): Classrooms are located in the Middle School and in the High School. Each class has a special education teacher providing direct instruction for core academic courses. The program provides academic and emotional support to students with a social emotional disability and has one Clinician providing group and individual therapy as well as on going case management. Both programs are staffed with additional paraprofessionals as needed.
- **MVP** (Mohawk Vocational Program): Program supports students with severe special needs. The program has a special education teacher a vocational coordinator and additional para

professionals as required. The program runs a self-sustaining daily coffee shop for school staff. The Middle School has a similar program for students with severe special needs, supported by a special educator and paraprofessionals.

Starting with the 2015 School Year, we added a program at BSE for students ages Pre-School -2nd grade. The program is run by a behaviorist with support from special education teachers and paraprofessionals. This program has enabled students on the autism spectrum and with behavioral challenges to access their general education classroom with varying levels of support.

Each of these programs is designed to maximize the amount of time in the general education classroom while at the same time provide a direct well designed individual program for each student. There is not a set amount of time in or out of the program. It is dictated by the student's level of need.

Please do not hesitate to call with questions regarding special education or civil rights.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leann Loomis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

MARY LYON FOUNDATION
Innovative Support for Local Education

This year the Mary Lyon Foundation is celebrating its 25th anniversary of providing innovative support for local education. Established in 1990 and incorporated in 1991, 2016 will be a year to reflect on past accomplishments and future challenges. Stay tuned for news of an upcoming celebration!

We are grateful for the many generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure by individuals, businesses, and organizations which make our work possible. We were pleased to be awarded \$15,000 for the Mini-Grant Program and Student Assistance Fund by the United Way of Franklin County, greatly expanding our capacity to support the needs of students, families, and teachers throughout West County. We especially appreciate the continuing financial support of the Myrtle Atkinson Foundation, the Cleveland Dodge Foundation, Bristol Myers Squibb, and the Harper Gerry family. We are also indebted to the Staples Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts for grants to purchase new equipment.

The Annual Lyonnaise in May showcased excellence in education with a presentation by Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Dr. Jeffrey Shea, student performances, a display of Mini-Grant projects, and presentations of the following awards: the George Needham Business Award to Baker Pharmacy, Jim Boulger Spirit of Adventure Award to Gabe Coler, Outstanding Mohawk Alumni Award to Brendan Lattrell, and Pat Kerrins Career Award to Melinda Gougeon, Ed.D.

In August, the Annual Children's Literature Festival once again explored local history with literature, crafts, and visits to nearby sites. In September, with support from the Pioneer Valley History Network, MassHumanities, the Buckland, Colrain, Heath and Shelburne councils of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and a number of sponsors, the lively Hilltowns History Fair and Conference held at Mohawk Trail Regional School brought history to life for all generations.

Through the generosity of sponsors and raffle donors, an enthusiastic audience, many volunteers, and our 25 teams of intrepid spellers, the 10th Annual Mary Lyon Foundation Community Spelling Bee raised more money than ever before—approximately \$8,000—for educational projects. This spirited annual event is a testament to the community's strong commitment to excellence in education! Grand champions were once again the Spelling Beans sponsored by Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters

In May, Founder and Executive Director, Sue Samoriski, welcomed Sheila Damkoehler to serve as Co-Executive Director. Our part-time staff includes Business Manager Gina Sieber, volunteer Office Manager Sandy Gilbert, and Student Intern Sequoia LeBreux. Members of our Board of Directors are Sylvia Orcutt, President; Marion Taylor, Past President; Hugh Knox, Vice President; Karen Fairbrother, Treasurer; Sharon Hudson, Corresponding Secretary; Suzanne Conway Legreze, Recording Secretary; Susan Schuman, Larry Wells, Robin Huntley and Mohawk students Emma Guyette, Lilly Wells and Eli Shearer. We are very grateful for their time and commitment!

Susan Samoriski and Sheila Damkoehler, Co-Executive Directors

CARL H. NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The fund was established under the provisions of the will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships. Recipients shall reside in the School District and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

This year the Awards subcommittee read 76 applications, 38 were from seniors and 38 from previous graduates of Mohawk. \$33,200.00 is to be awarded using 30% for seniors and 70% for graduates. The Committee

feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources while graduates have far fewer resources. 30 scholarships totaling \$10,400.00 were awarded to seniors (79% of applicants). 32 scholarships totaling \$22,800.00 were given to graduates (84% of applicants).

From 1991 – 2015 a total of \$876,625.00 has been awarded in scholarships, Mohawk seniors have received \$270,775.00 and \$605,850.00 has been awarded to Mohawk graduates.

The application is once again available on line to the graduates. Seniors can pick their applications up at Mohawk High School.

There are 15 members on the Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Committee. One from each of the nine member towns in the district, three at large members appointed by the School Committee, plus a past School Committee member, current School Committee member and the chairman of the School Committee. Members from the nine towns are: Sheila Graves (Ashfield), Marion Scott (Buckland), Marge Porrovecchio (Charlemont), Michelle Hillman (Colrain), Jonathan Diamond (Heath), Alice Parker (Hawley), Allen Irvine (Plainfield), Marion Taylor (Shelburne), and Rowe (open).

Officers are: Marge Porrovecchio and Robin Hartnett, Co-Chair, and Marion Scott, Secretary. Subcommittees: Finance, Marion Taylor, Robin Hartnett, David Engle/Eric Sumner. Scholarship: Marge Porrovecchio, Sheila Graves, Michelle Hillman, Marion Scott and Allen Irvine.

The Mohawk community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nilman for his foresight in supporting higher education for the students of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School. The committee members are honored to bring the wishes of his will to fruition.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk (and were living in the nine town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs. Call the Guidance Office at Mohawk for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted, Marion E. Scott, Secretary

