

ANNUAL REPORTS  
FOR THE  
TOWN OF PLAINFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS  
2016

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Cover photo by Pleun Bouricius



# PHILLIP S. LOCOCO





Eighteen and one-half years of dedicated service to the Town of Plainfield as an elected member of the Select Board is an accomplishment attained by few.






Phil Lococo has done just that, many of those years as Select Board chair. During his tenure, Phil persevered to guide and lead Plainfield through many projects and controversial topics. His willingness to listen to every official's and constituent's ideas and concerns remained consistent throughout his tenure attesting to the fair and honest approach applied to numerous matters deliberated by the Board.

Phil moved to Plainfield with his family in 1988 and shortly thereafter began his service to Plainfield as a firefighter and EMT. He also served as the Select Board representative to the ad hoc committee charged with drafting the Agricultural Commission and Right-to-Farm By-Laws approved in 2006. Phil continues to serve as Plainfield's liaison to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District, a position designed to assist in referring veterans to services provided by the District.

As weather permitted, the rumble of his much-loved Harley Davidson announced Phil's arrival at Select Board meetings. It is with many thanks and deep gratitude that the Select Board, on behalf of themselves and the Town of Plainfield, proudly dedicates the 2016 edition of the Town Report to you.

Phil in the numbers:

-  Years on the Select Board, 18.5
-  Days on the Select Board, 6,757
-  Hours on the Select Board, 162,168
-  Minutes on the Select Board, 9,730,080

-  Number of meetings, 481+
-  Number of warrants signed, 1,924+
-  Pieces of irrelevant mail from county & state agencies, 2,886
-  Number of complaints (guesstimates), 1,823
-  Number of times the Harley came with Phil, lots!

Thank you, Phil, and enjoy the ride!

## ANNUAL ELECTION

OFFICE	NAMES	RESULTS
Board of Assessors 3 yrs	Dudley Williams	93
	Blank	2
Board of Health 3 yrs	Ellen Dupont	91
	Blank	4
Board of Selectman	Phillip S. Lococo	90
	Blank	4
	Claude Dupont	1
Board of Selectman	Howard Bronstein	85
	Blank	0
1st Constable	Merton D. Taylor, Sr.	94
	Blank	1
2nd Constable	Edward Morann	91
	Blank	4
Hampshire Council of Gov.	Peg Keller	90
	Blank	5
Library Trustee	Ann Kohn	93
	Blank	2
Moderator	Laurie Israel	91
	Penn Moulton	1
	Blank	3
School Committee	Heather Davis	94
	Blank	1
Town Clerk	Ruth Osgood	91
	Blank	4
Tree Warden	Winton Pitcoff	90
	Claude Dupont	1
	Blank	4

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Position	Appointee	Term Expires
<b>Accountant</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Paula J. King	2016 2019
<b>Ad Hoc Road Status Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	William Sheppard	2015 2017
	Merton Taylor Jr.	2016 2017
	Edward Morann	2016 2017
<b>Americans with Disabilities Act Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	William Adams	2016 2017
	Vacant	2014 2015
<b>Agricultural Commission</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Anna Manning-Hanchett	2015 2018
	Paul Dileo	2014 2017
	Anne Williams	2015 2018
	Ed Stockman	2013 2019
	John Taliaferro	2013 2019
		<b>One Year</b>
	David Crowell, Alternate	2016 2017
<b>AMCO Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Philip Lococo	2016 2017
<b>Animal Aid Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Ronald A. Scott, Chairman	2016 2017
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Casey Dwyer	2015 2017
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>		
	Warren Kirkpatrick, Certified	2016 2017
<b>Board of Registrars</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	John F. Westwood, Chairman	2014 2017
	Linda J. Melle	2015 2018
	Ruth Osgood	2016 2019
	Robert Fusco	2016 2019
<b>Broadband Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Sally Silberberg	2016 2017
	David Kramer	2016 2017

Kimberly Longey	2016	2017
Leslie Rule	2016	2017
Brian Hawthorne	2016	2017
Rebecca Coletta	2016	2017
Michel Lumsden	2016	2017
<b>Building Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
+Appointed by Moderator		
David Alvord	2017	2/7/20
Appointed by Finance Committee		
Claude Dupont	2015	2018
Appointed by Moderator		
Jeff Prost	2014	2017
Appointed by Select board		
Phillip Sargenski	2013	2017
Appointed by Moderator		
Gordon Massman	2014	2017
Vacant	2013	2015
<b>Burial Agent</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Ruth Osgood	2016	2017
<b>Carl Nilman Scholarship Committee Representative</b>		
Allen Irvine	2016	2017
<b>Cemetery Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Merton D. Taylor, Sr.	2016	2019
Theresa A. Thatcher	2015	2018
Ruth Osgood	2014	2016
<b>Conservation Commission</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Judith B. Williams, Chairman	2014	2017
Nina Inchari	2015	2018
Eric Burcroff	2015	2018
Vacant	2013	2016
John Nelson	2014	2017
Alice Schertle	2016	2019
<b>CORI Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Edward Morann	2015	2017
<b>Council on Aging</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Shirley Todd Wood	2015	2019
Phil Alessio	2015	2018
Ruby Goodnoff	2016	2019
Ann Kohn	2015	2018
Anne Irvine	2015	2017
James Feeley -Alternate	2015	2017
<b>Emergency Management</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Merton D. Taylor, Jr., Chairman	2015	2017
Dennis Thatcher, Co-Chairman	2015	2017
Stacey Hudson	2015	2017
<b>Emergency Response Coordinator</b>		
Merton Taylor, Jr.	2016	2017
<b>Field Driver</b>		<b>One Year</b>
David Crowell	2016	2017
<b>Fire Department</b>	Fire chief appoints Fire Officers	<b>One Year</b>
Dennis A. Thatcher, Chief	2016	2017
David W. Alvord, Assistant Chief	2015	2016
Edward E. Morann, Captain	2015	2016
Merton D. Taylor, Jr., Captain	2015	2016
Matthew Hardwick, Lieutenant	2015	2016
Ellen Dupont, Lieutenant-		
Medical Officer	2015	2016
<b>Flags &amp; Flowers Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Susan M. Lococo	2016	2017
Sandra J. Morann	2016	2017
Bonnie Phillips	2016	2017
Vacant	2015	2016
<b>Franklin Regional Transit Authority</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Howard Bronstein	2016	2017
<b>Geneologist</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Betsey Howes	2016	2017

<b>Grant Writing Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>		Sandra Morann, Special Officer	2016	2017
Kimberly Longley	2014	2017		Merton D. Taylor, Sr., Special Officer	2016	2017
Vacant	2012	2015		<b>Recreation Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Vacant	2013	2016		Sandra Morann, Chairman	2015	2018
<b>Hazardous Materials Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Heather Davis	2015	2018
Dennis A. Thatcher	2016	2017		Justina Harrison	2015	2018
<b>Highland Ambulance-Town Representative</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Kenneth Magdycz	2015	2018
Vacant	2015	2016		Roxanne Shearer	2014	2017
<b>Highland Valley Elder Services</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Alternates		<b>One Year</b>
Ann Kohn	2016	2017		Kara Kitchen	2013	Not for now 6/14
<b>Hilltown Comm. Dev. Corp. Rep.</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Robert Jensen	2013	Not for now 6/14
Vacant	2014	2015		Gino Orlandi	2013	Not for now 6/14
<b>Hilltown Resource Management Coop.</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Right to Know Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	2014	2015		Gregor B. Prentice	2016	2017
John Nelson, (Recycling Coordinator)	2016	2017		<b>Safety Coordinator</b>		<b>One Year</b>
<b>Historical Commission</b>		<b>Three Year</b>		Gregor B. Prentice	2016	2017
Judy A. Williams, Chairman	2015	2018		<b>Surveyors of Wood &amp; Lumber</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Lori Austin	2015	2018		Vacant	2016	2017
Dario Coletta	2014	2017		Claude DuPont III	2016	2017
Dudley Williams	2016	2019		<b>Tax Collector</b>		<b>Two Year</b>
Bettie Briggs	2015	2018		Heather Davis	2016	2017
<b>Inspector of Gas Fittings</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Tax Collector Assistant</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Donald Lawton	2016	2017		Vacant	2016	2017
<b>Inspector of Plumbing</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Town Clerk Assistant</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Donald Lawton	2016	2017		Theresa Thatcher	2015	2017
<b>Inspector of Wiring</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Town Treasurer and Tax Title Custodian</b>		<b>Two Year</b>
David Rhinemiller	2016	2017		Allan Kidston	2016	2018
<b>IT Director</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Treasurer Assistant</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Donald Hall	2016	20167		Vacant	2017	No appt. 2017
<b>Master Street Address Guide Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Town Perambulator</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Edward E. Morann, Chairman	2016	2017		Vacant	2017	No appt. 2017
Robert L. Persing	2016	2017		<b>Town Administrative Assistant/Secretary</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Dennis A. Thatcher	2016	2017		Paula King	2015	2018
Theresa A. Thatcher	2016	2017		<b>Uniform Procurement Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Laurence D. Wood, Jr.	2016	20175		Phil Lococo	2016	2017
<b>MBI Comm. Rep. (Point of Contact)</b>		<b>One Year</b>		<b>Veteran's Agent</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Brian Hawthorne (resigned 5/24/16)	2015	2016		Brian Brooks	2016	2017
Kimberly Longey		2017		<b>Veterans' Graves Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
<b>Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee</b>	<b>One Year</b>			Dudley Williams	2016	2017
Robert Persing	2016	2017		<b>Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District</b>		<b>One Year</b>
<b>Moth Superintendent</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Phillip S. Lococo	2016	2017
Judy A. Williams	2016	2017		<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
<b>Municipal Hearing Off.-M.G.L. Chap. 148A</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Joan Wattman	2014	2017
Penn Moulton	2015 (resigned 10/17/16)	2017		Dudley Williams (resigned 7/13/16)	2016	2019
<b>Plainfield's Delegation - Wired West</b>	<b>One Year</b>			Laurie Israel appointed 7/12/16	2016	2019
Leslie Rule (	2016	2017		Sandra J. Morann, Alternate	2016	2017
Kimberly Longey, Alternate	2016	2017				<b>One Year</b>
<b>Plainfield Energy Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>		Peg Keller	2016	2017
Stephen Bushway	2016	2017		Ann Irwin, Alternate	2016	2017
Conrad Liebnow	2016	2017		Sandra J. Morann, Alternate	2016	2017
Lynne Robbins (resigned 8/12/15)	2014	2015				
Edward Stockman (resigned 12/29/15)	2015	2016				
James Markham	2016	2017				
Tim Walter	2016	2017				
Judy Williams	2016	2017				
<b>Planning Board</b>		<b>Three Year</b>				
Peter LaPoint	2016	2019				
Edward Morran, Chairman	2015 Resigned 1/2/2017	2018				
Claude Dupont	2015	2018				
Brian Hawthorne	2015	2018				
<b>Police Department</b>		<b>One Year</b>				
Stacey Hudson, Chief	2016	2017				
Police Chief appoints Police Officers						
Joshua Shearer, Regular Officer	2016	2017				
Trish Carlo, Regular Officer	2016	2017				
Edward Morann, Regular Officer	2016	2017				
Bernard Forgea, Special Officer	2016	2017				

## Finance Committee - appointed by Town Moderator

Robert L. Persing	2013	2016
Robert Baker	2017	2020
Lew Robbins, Chairman	2015	2018
David Kramer	2016	2019
Paul (Tim) Walter	2012	2015
Sylvane Stockwell	3/2017	2020

## Library Director- Hired by Library Trustees

Denise M. Sessions	2016	2017
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## School Council Community Representative -

Town Moderator appoints this position		
Vacant - since 2008	2014	2015

## APPOINTMENTS/HIRES DONE BY SELECTMEN

### Building Commissioner

Gerald Garner	2016	2017
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### Building Inspector - Local

Vacant	2014-2015	2017
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### Highway Superintendent

Merton Taylor Jr.	2016	2017
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### Tax Collector Deputy

Point Software	2016	2017
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### Town Counsel

Atty Ronald Berenson	2016	2017
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Kopelman & Paige	2016	2017
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### Town Custodian

Bonnie Phillips	2015	2017
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## MISCELLANEOUS INCOME 2016 -

No.	DOGS	FEE	TOTAL
14	Male Dogs	\$6.00	\$84.00
71	Neutered Male Dogs	\$3.00	\$213.00
9	Female Dogs	\$6.00	\$54.00
78	Spayed Female Dogs	\$3.00	\$234.00
20	Late Fees	\$10.00	\$200.00
10	Late Fees	\$25.00	\$250.00

**172 TOTAL**

**TOTAL \$1035**

The Selectboard filed a complaint in District Court on two Plainfield residents for not registering their dogs for 2016. One family remains in noncompliance in spite of Summons to appear.

A Rabies Clinic was held in March 2016 at Hathaway Hall and organized by Animal Control Officer, Casey Dwyer and Dr. Joann Morrison of Worthington. The Town Clerk was available to register dogs.

## SELECT BOARD

For the Plainfield Select Board, 2016 was the Year of Transition. As a result of our usual May election, and special elections in June and then in January 2017, we have an all new board. The pressures of personal lives, work and family commitments led our predecessors, with more than 30 years of service combined, to resign their terms. With almost two decades of service by Phil Lococo it was a unanimous and overwhelming choice to dedicate this report to him. Judy Feeley and Dennis Mimitz are also due our gratitude for working with Phil in serving our community so well.

They have left us a full agenda! Although we are new to the Select Board, we bring vast experience in private and public sector work. Our huge initial challenge is the ongoing struggle to connect Plainfield to the broadband network. Our Broadband Committee has been tenacious and patient, putting in hundreds of hours of work as they have navigated the myriad of choices and shifting landscape of this statewide issue. The Select Board fully supports and appreciates their efforts, and we look forward to sharing information and plans based on their work very soon. We are truly getting closer to having high speed Internet access available to every house in Plainfield.

We also worked with the Energy Committee in securing a grant for energy improvements on town facilities. As part of this effort we updated our local by-laws and considered changes in land use regulations.

Along with the dedicated and hard working members of town committees, the town staff has helped bring us up to speed on how things operate. For example, when a group of citizens came to us with concerns over traffic and speeding, we were able to work with staff to find the ways to properly alter speed limits and post signs, reducing traffic hazards.

We have also supported the work of the Web Site Committee. In addition to the web presence already established, we are working to make an easy and convenient way for each committee to submit minutes for posting on the town web site. This submission will inform the public, while at the same time meeting the requirements of the new state public document laws. State compliance is always a challenge for towns as small as Plainfield, but our dedicated staff is teaching us to navigate the complicated landscape of the Commonwealth's rules, regulations and traditions in state and local governing.

We are undertaking a review of all work done on behalf of the town, in an effort to document all town operations. This will make future transitions that much more efficient, and will make it easier to assess the work we do and its effectiveness. We envision developing an operations manual for staff and elected officials that will guide us all in implementing the most effective and best practices on behalf of the residents of Plainfield.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Howard Bronstein**



Michal Lumsden



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The annual Plainfield Town Meeting was opened by Moderator, Laurie Israel, at 1:00 pm.

**Article 1.** To vote by official ballot for all Town Officers, Committees, Trustees, etc., and to fix compensation for the same.  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide such amounts of money as are reasonable and necessary to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, or take any other action relative thereto.  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement, as enclosed, to be effective July 1, 2016.  
*Inserted by the MTRSD      Approved by the School Committee*  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 4.** 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:  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Strike the following language in the Preamble:

The agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne, hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

And replace said language with the following:

The Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Shelburne, and Rowe (hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

Strike the following language in Section I(A):

The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) elected members, two (2) from each town. A member appointed by the Rowe School Committee would serve as a non-voting member of the Committee as described in Section IX (G) of this Agreement. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

And replace said language with the following:

The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of eighteen (18) elected members, two (2) from each town. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

Strike the following language in Section I(B):

At the annual town elections in 1994, in addition to any term of office of an elected member whose term is expired, the following shall also be elected: the Town of Hawley shall elect one member for a three-year term, and one member for two-year term; the Town of Heath shall elect one member for a three-year term and one member for a one-year term; the Town of Plainfield shall elect one member for a two-year term and one member for a one-year term.

2004 Election Year – Terms of all currently elected committee members with the exception of Heath, Hawley and Plainfield, will expire as of the annual town elections in 2004. At the 2004 annual town elections two school committee members will be elected from the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, and Shelburne. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes from his/her town will serve a term of three years. The school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years.

Thereafter, in every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.

And replace said language with the following:

In every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.

At the 2017 annual town elections in the Town of Rowe, two school committee members will be elected. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes will serve a term of three years, and the school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years. Upon the expiration of the initial term of office, each member shall serve on the Committee for a term of three years as stated above.

Each elected member commencing with the organization of the Committee following the 2004 town elections, shall have a weighted vote to be determined by the member town's population as it relates to the total population of all member towns divided by the number of representatives to the Committee from said member town. Each weighted vote shall be determined to the nearest one-tenth and be adjusted every ten (10) years using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census.

Strike the following language in Section I(F):

The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.

and replace said language with the following:

The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.



Elaine Holder

Strike the following language in Section I(G):

The initial weighted votes of the Committee members established in 1994 from each member town are as follows:

<i>Member Towns</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>	<i>Weighted Vote of each Member</i>
Ashfield	3	5.6%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.1%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.8%
Shelburne	3	6.5%

The weighted votes of the Committee have been adjusted using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census and are as follows:

<i>Member Towns</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>	<i>Weighted vote of each Member</i>
Ashfield	3	5.7%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.3%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	3	6.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of sixteen (16) members is reconstituted after the 2004 town election for school committee members consistent with Section I, Paragraphs A and B of the District Agreement. After the reconstitution of the committee in 2004 the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

<i>Member Towns</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>	<i>Weighted vote of each Member</i>
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.5%
Charlemont	2	6.5%
Colrain	2	8.5%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	2	9.5%

and replace said language with the following:

The weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

<i>Member Towns</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>	<i>Weighted vote of each Member</i>
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.4%
Charlemont	2	6.2%
Colrain	2	8.2%
Hawley	2	1.7%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	3.2%
Shelburne	2	9.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of eighteen (18) members is reconstituted after the Town of Rowe becomes a 7-12 member of the District. After the reconstitution of the Committee, the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows until the next federal decennial census as provided above.

<i>Member Towns</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>	<i>Weighted vote of each Member</i>
Ashfield	2	8.2%
Buckland	2	9.0%
Charlemont	2	6.0%
Colrain	2	7.9%
Hawley	2	1.6%
Heath	2	3.3%
Plainfield	2	3.1%
Rowe	2	1.9%
Shelburne	2	9.0%

Strike the following language in Section III(A):

Residents of the member towns and all residents of the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

and replace said language with the following:

Residents of the member towns will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

Strike the following language in Section III(F):

The Committee shall accept for enrollment in the District High School, pupils from the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as are set forth in Section IX of this Agreement. The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns other than the member towns and the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

and replace said language with the following:

The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

Strike the following language in Section IV(H):

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont in direct proportion to each town's five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont, shall be apportioned among the district's six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town's five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools.

and replace said language with the following:

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe in direct proportion to each town's five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.



Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe shall be apportioned among the district's six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town's five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016).

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Strike the following language in Section VI(C):

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District's annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two "units" towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while Hawley and Charlemont shall have one "unit" each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

and replace said language with the following:

**(D) Vote on the Annual Budget**

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District's annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two "units" towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while 7-12 member towns shall have one "unit" each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

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Strike the entirety of Section IX as follows, and renumber the remaining Sections:

**SECTION IX**

**EDUCATION OF PUPILS FROM THE TOWN OF ROWE**

**(A) Special Education Pupils from the Town of Rowe**

The Committee shall provide for the education of all pupils from the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve who are entitled to attend the District High School irrespective of the specific and particular educational needs of any pupil from said Town of Rowe, and irrespective of whether such education for any pupil from said Town of Rowe is provided at the District High School or at any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

**(B) Transportation of Pupils from the Town of Rowe**

The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from said District High School to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School. The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

The Town of Rowe shall bear the cost of transportation for elementary pupils attending the Rowe elementary school.

**(C) Tuition Basis for Pupils Grades 7-12 from the Town of Rowe**

The cost of tuition to the District High School for each pupil in grades seven through twelve who attends the District High School or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, and who resides in the Town of Rowe shall be paid by said Town of Rowe to the District during the fiscal year when each such pupil is actually in attendance. The basis of the cost of tuition to the District High School or any other school as may be approved by said Committee for each fiscal year shall be established as follows: The total Maintenance and

Operating Budget for said District High School as defined in Subsection VI(D) of this Agreement, for that fiscal year; reduced by the anticipated amounts of receipts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year; and further reduced by the anticipated amounts of surplus revenue from the District treasury to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year; and further reduced by the amounts received from towns paying tuition to the district, consistent with the terms of Subsection III(F) of this Agreement; the balance (viz. the net operating and maintenance budget for said fiscal year) to be divided by the total enrollment of pupils in the District High School from member towns as of October 1 of the previous fiscal year and the resulting balance further divided by one and one-tenth (1.1); the final balance to equal the cost of tuition for one pupil for one complete school year.

**(D) Reduction of the Cost of Tuition for Pupils Resident in the Town of Rowe**

In the event the Committee reduces the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to the member towns for any fiscal year; by reduction of the Operating and Maintenance Budget for said fiscal year or by the application of additional amounts of revenue, irrespective of the source thereof, to reduce the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to said member towns for that fiscal year; the cost of tuition to the Town of Rowe for the education of its pupils during said fiscal year shall be likewise reduced in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX(D).

**(E) Schedule of Payment of Tuition Costs by the Town of Rowe**

The Town of Rowe shall pay for the tuition of its pupils to the District High School, or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, such amounts as are in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX (D), and shall make such payments twice each fiscal year at the following time: 1) not later than January 31 of each fiscal year; 2) not later than June 30 of each fiscal year.

**(F) Payment of Capital Costs by the Town of Rowe**

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to pay a portion of capital costs as defined in Subsection IV (B) for capital projects at District High School. The Committee shall negotiate the rate of a voluntary contribution with the Rowe School Committee at the time of each capital project.

**(G) Representation on the Committee**

The School Committee of the Town of Rowe may appoint one of its members to represent the Town of Rowe at meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall allow such representative all powers of discussion, debate and deliberation including, but not limited to, participation in such meetings of the Committee while in executive session, but such representative shall not have the power to vote on any matter which comes before the Committee.

**(H) Administrative Support Services for Rowe Pupils Grade K-6**

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to utilize the services of the Superintendent of Schools and central administration, and Director of Pupil Services who also directs special education, for administration of the Rowe Elementary School and bear the costs thereof.

**(I) Distribution of Assets in the Event of Dissolution of the District**

In the event of the dissolution of the District, its assets shall be distributed to the member towns and the Town of Rowe on the basis of each town's respective aggregate payment of capital cost to the District.

Add the following to Section XIV as a new subsection (C):

**(C) Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Any amendment to the Agreement must be approved by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Add the following to Section XV:

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.

Add the following to the last paragraph of Section XVI(A):

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.

*Inserted by the MTRSD      Approved by the School Committee*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 5.** 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):

**(B) Procedure**

Any proposal for amendment, except a proposal for amendment providing for the withdrawal of a member town (which shall be acted upon as provided in Section XVI), may be initiated by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Committee or by a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of any one of the member towns. In the latter case, said petition shall contain at the end thereof a certification by the town clerk of such member town as to the number of registered voters in said town according to the most recent voting list and the number of signatures on the petition which appear to be the names of registered voters of said town and said petition shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee. In either case, the secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the board of selectmen of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement has been made and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signature in the case of a proposal by petition). The selectmen of each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose, an article stating the proposal or the substance thereof. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by all of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting as aforesaid.

and replacing said language with the following:

**(B) Procedure**

Any proposal for amendment of this Agreement, except a proposal for amendment providing for the withdrawal of a member town (which shall be acted upon as provided in Section XV), may be initiated by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Committee or by a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of any one of the member towns. In the latter case, said petition shall contain at the end thereof a certification by the town clerk of such member town as to the number of registered voters in said town according to the most recent voting list and the number of signatures on the petition which appear to be the names of registered voters of said town and said petition shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee. In either case, the secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the board of selectmen of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement has been made and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signature in the case of a proposal by petition). The selectmen of each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose, an article stating the proposal or the substance thereof. Except as provided below in paragraph (C) of this Section, such

amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting.

**(C) Approval of an Amendment Requiring the Closure of a District School**

Any amendment the impact of which would be the required closure of a District school, whether initiated by a member town or by the Committee, will take effect only upon its acceptance by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the member towns provided that the town(s) whose students are principally served by the District school to be closed must have voted to accept the amendment, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting. Further, any amendment to this paragraph (C) will take effect only upon its acceptance by all of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting.

*Inserted by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District      Approved by the School Committee*

*Inserted by the MTRSD*

*Approved by the School Committee*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 6.** To see if the town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Plainfield to establish a Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District to identify designated locations where certain large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic installations are allowed by right, by:

1. inserting the following paragraph in Section III. Establishment of Districts:

**3.1 Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District**

**3.1.1 Purposes and Intent**

The purpose of the **Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District** is to identify designated location(s) where certain large-scale solar photovoltaic installations are allowed by right in accordance with Sections 4.1 and 8.3.

**3.1.2 Applicability**

There shall be a Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District which consists of the whole area of the Town of Plainfield, excepting the area within three hundred feet of either side of the centerline of the Rt. 116 Scenic Byway and further excepting the area that is both within the Plainfield National Register District and within three hundred feet of either side of the centerline of a public way, as shown on the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District map on file with the Town Clerk.

2. adding a section titled "Exhibit C. Maps"

3. adopting the map titled "Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District", a reduced-size copy of which is attached here as "Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District Map Option 1", as part of the Plainfield Zoning Map and

4. inserting a reduced-size copy of this map in Exhibit C.

or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Planning Board*

**Requires a 2/3 majority**

**After much discussion, a ballot vote was taken. 74 Voters voted of which 46 voted NO and 28 voted YES.**

**Article 6 did not pass.**

**Article 7.** To see if the town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Plainfield to establish a Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District to identify a single designated location where certain large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic installations are allowed by right, by:

1. inserting the following paragraph in Section III. Establishment of Districts:

### **3.1 Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District**

#### **3.1.1 Purposes and Intent**

The purpose of the **Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District** is to identify designated location(s) where certain large-scale solar photovoltaic installations are allowed by right in accordance with Sections 4.1 and 8.3.

#### **3.1.2 Applicability**

There shall be a Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District which consists of the area known as Plainfield Assessor Map 15C Parcel 19 and which is shown on the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District map on file with the Town Clerk.

2. adding a section titled "Exhibit C. Maps"
3. adopting the map titled "Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District", a reduced-size copy of which is attached here as "Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District Map Option 2", as part of the Plainfield Zoning Map and
4. inserting a reduced-size copy of said map in Exhibit C.

or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Planning Board    Recommended by the Energy Committee*  
**Requires a 2/3 majority**

**A show of hands vote was taken.    Article 7 passed by the required 2/3 majority with a vote of 69 YES and 5 NO**

**Article 8.** To see if the town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Plainfield to create site plan review definitions and special use regulations for large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic installations, by:

1. Inserting the following six paragraphs in Section II: Definitions

**2.1.6A As-of-Right Siting.** The siting of a development may proceed without the need for a special permit or other discretionary approval. However, development shall be subject to site plan review to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances, bylaws, federal and state building codes, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Siting of projects cannot be prohibited, but can be reasonably regulated by the local building commissioner, local inspectors, and a designated Site Plan Review Authority.

**2.1.8A Building Commissioner.** The lead person in a municipal building department. All other inspectors are deemed to be local inspectors in accordance with MGL, chapter 143, & section 3 & 3A. The building commissioner is also the zoning enforcement officer.

**2.1.9A Building Permit.** A construction permit issued by an authorized local building commissioner; the building permit affirms that the project is consistent with the state and federal building codes as well as local zoning bylaws.

**2.1.38A Project Proponent.** The applicant, property owner, facility developer, operator and management entity, jointly and severally, of a project. Each of the responsible parties shall be responsible for adhering to the requirements set forth in this By-Law.

**2.1.45A Site Plan Review.** A review by the Site Plan Review Authority to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws.

**2.1.45B Site Plan Review Authority.** The person or group designated as such by the municipality to perform Site Plan Reviews.

2. Inserting the following paragraph in subsection 4.1. Uses Allowed By Right:

#### **4.1.6 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations**

As-of-Right Siting of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations up to 1.5 acres in area are allowed within the Solar

Photovoltaic Overlay District following site plan review in accordance with the requirements of Section 8.3.

3. Inserting the following paragraph in subsection 4.2. Uses Allowed By Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals:

#### **4.2.7 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations**

Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations outside the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District and all Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations greater than 1.5 acres in size shall be allowed following issuance of a special permit and site plan review in accordance with the requirements of Section 8.3.

4. Inserting the following sub-section in Section VIII. Special Use Regulations:

### **8.3 Large Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations**

#### **8.3.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this Section 8.3 is to provide standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations that address public safety and minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources. Such installations include:

- a. As-of-Right Siting of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations up to 1.5 acres in size within the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District defined in Section 3.1, as allowed by Section 4.1.6.
- b. Special Permit siting of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations outside the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District defined in Section 3.1 and installations greater than 1.5 acres in size, as allowed by Section 4.2.7.

#### **8.3.0.1 Definitions**

**Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation:** A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof-mounted, and has a rated nameplate capacity greater than 50 KW DC.

**Rated Nameplate Capacity:** The maximum rated output of electric power production of the Photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC).

#### **8.3.1 Applicability**

This Section applies to large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this Section. This Section also pertains to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment.

Installations up to 1.5 acres are allowed as-of-right within the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District by Section 4.1.6, while installations outside the Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District or greater than 1.5 acres require a special permit under Section 4.2.7. The calculation of coverage area shall exclude required setbacks. The combined area of multiple installations (new or existing) on a single lot, or adjacent lots in common ownership shall be used to determine accordance with the 1.5 acre threshold.

This Section shall not apply to ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays with rated nameplate capacity up to 50 KW, or to roof mounted solar arrays of any size.

#### **8.3.2 General Requirements for all Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations**

The following requirements apply to all Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations.

### **8.3.2.1 Site Plan Review**

Ground-mounted large scale solar photovoltaic installations shall undergo site plan review by the Site Plan Review Authority prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in this Section. For the purpose of this Section of the Zoning Bylaw, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be the Site Plan Review Authority.

#### **8.3.2.1.1 General**

All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### **8.3.2.1.2 Required Documents**

Pursuant to the site plan review process, the Project Proponent shall provide the following documents:

**(a)** A site plan showing:

**i.** Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;

**ii.** Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures;

**iii.** Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures

**iv.** One- or three-line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all Massachusetts Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;

**v.** Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter;

**vi.** Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer;

**vii.** Name, address, phone number and signature of the Project Proponent;

**viii.** The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the Project Proponent; and

**(b)** Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site;

**(c)** An operation and maintenance plan;

**(d)** Proof of liability insurance and builder's risk insurance;

**(e)** A public outreach plan, including a project development timeline, which indicates how the project proponent will meet the required site plan review notification procedures and otherwise inform abutters and the community.

The Site Plan Review Authority may waive documentary requirements as it deems appropriate.

#### **8.3.2.2 Site Control**

The Project Proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation.

#### **8.3.2.3 Operation & Maintenance Plan**

The Project Proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the large- scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

#### **8.3.2.4 Utility Notification**

No large scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the Site Plan Review Authority that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar photovoltaic installation Project Proponent's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

### **8.3.2.5 Dimension and Density Requirements**

#### **8.3.2.5.1 Setbacks**

Large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation setbacks shall adhere to those specified by the Intensity Regulations in Section 5.

#### **8.3.2.5.2 Structures**

All structures for large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be subject to existing bylaws. All appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other.

#### **8.3.2.5.3 Screening**

Whenever reasonable, all structures shall have year-round screening from view of side yards of abutters by means of fencing, berms, evergreen trees or shrubs or other reasonable screening to avoid adverse visual impacts.

### **8.3.2.6 Design Standards**

#### **8.3.2.6.1 Site Lighting**

Lighting of solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Where feasible, lighting of the solar photovoltaic installations shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

#### **8.3.2.6.2 Signage**

Signs on large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with Section 8.0 of this bylaw. Each sign shall be required to identify voltage and electrocution hazards as well as the owner, and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number. Solar photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar photovoltaic installation.

#### **8.3.2.6.3 Utility Connections**

Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Site Plan Review Authority, shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

### **8.3.2.7 Safety and Environmental Standards**

#### **8.3.2.7.1 Emergency Services**

The large scale solar photovoltaic installation Project Proponent shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the local fire chief. Upon request the Project Proponent shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The Project Proponent shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

#### **8.3.2.7.2 Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts**

Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the large – scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.

### **8.3.2.8 Monitoring and Maintenance**

#### **8.3.2.8.1 Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions**

Project Proponent shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the local Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Services. The Project Proponent shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the solar photovoltaic installation and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.



### 8.3.2.8.2 Modifications

All material modifications to a solar photovoltaic installation made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Site Plan Review Authority.

### 8.3.2.9 Abandonment or Decommissioning

#### 8.3.2.9.1 Removal Requirements

Any large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation which has reached the end of its useful life, or has been abandoned consistent with Section 8.3.2.9.2, shall be removed. The Project Proponent shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. The Project Proponent shall notify the Site Plan Review Authority by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. Decommissioning shall consist of:

- (a) Physical removal of all large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations and structures, including below grade duct banks, raceways, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.
- (b) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
- (c) Stabilization, recovery or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Site Plan Review Authority may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

#### 8.3.2.9.2 Abandonment

Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the solar photovoltaic installation shall be considered abandoned when either it fails to be completed within a commercially reasonable time (such that power generation can commence), or it fails to operate for an elapsed time of more than one year without the written consent of the Site Plan Review Authority.

#### 8.3.2.9.3 Surety

The Site Plan Review Authority may, at its discretion, require the Project Proponent to post a bond or other financial security with the Town Treasurer in an amount deemed sufficient to cover the cost of demolition and removal of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation in the event of abandonment or decommissioning, or to cover the cost of repairs to remedy site access or public safety hazards which are not corrected by the Project Proponent in a timely manner after written notification.

or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Planning Board*

**Requires a 2/3 majority** **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Borrow up to \$216,000.00 for a fully equipped dump truck, to take any action relative thereto.**

*Inserted by the Highway Supt. Recommended by the Finance Comm.*

**Requires a 2/3 majority**

**A motion was made by Brian Hawthorne to amend Article 9 to read: "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$116,000 for a fully equipped dump truck and to spend up to \$100,000 from Free Cash as a down payment." This motion carried by a 2/3 majority vote.**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the \$30,558.00 reimbursement for West Street damages to be expended by the Highway Superintendent, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Highway Supt. Recommended by the Select Board*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$ 617.00 from Library Sales and Fines to the Shaw Memorial Library, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will authorize the Assessors to apply \$80,000.00 from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal 2017 tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

*Recommended by the Finance Comm.*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$20,000.00 from Free Cash for the purchase of a generator and related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee and the Fire Department*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Dave Alvord made an amendment to strike the \$20,000 and replace with \$12,000. Article passed as AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$153,906.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant Recommended by the Finance Comm.*

**Requires a 2/3 majority**

**Brian Hawthorne made a motion to amend Article 14 by striking \$153,906 and replacing it with \$53,906. Amendment approved and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$5,000.00 from the FY'16 Highway Salaries Account to the FY'16 General Highway Account, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Highway Supt. Recommended by the Finance Comm.*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to place the decision relative to the use, development, or disposition of the former Jackson property, Assessors' Map 15C, parcels 24 and 25, in the hands of the Select Board, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Select Board*  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to apply, accept, and expend for specific purposes provided by any Federal or State Grants or Programs which may be awarded to the Town.

*Inserted by the Select Board*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to accept as available funds any and all monies from the Executive Office of Transportation for Fiscal 2017.

*Inserted by the Select Board*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will choose or create, as appropriate, any other Town Committees, Boards, Commissions, Trustees, Offices, etc., and to fix compensation for the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to retain legal counsel for the town, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Select Board*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the Town Hall, Shaw Memorial Library, Hallock Memorial School Building, Hathaway Hall, Firehouse, Town Garage, Police Station, Public Safety Building, and surrounding areas, in the charge of the Buildings Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the cemeteries in the charge of the Cemetery Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Cemetery Committee*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the highways, public ways, including the alteration and widening thereof, railings and bridges in the charge of the Select Board, or take any other action relative thereto. *Inserted by the Select Board* **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Trustees, etc. as printed in the Town Report **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Town Meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 4:20 p.m.**

**Town Meeting minutes prepared and certified by Town Clerk, Ruth Osgood**

A True Attested Copy  
**Ruth E. Osgood, Town Clerk**

## May 7, 2016 ANNUAL ELECTION

OFFICE	NAMES	RESULTS
Board of Assessors 3 yrs	Dudley Williams	93
	Blank	2
Board of Health 3 yrs	Ellen Dupont	91
	Blank	4
Board of Selectman	Phillip S. Lococo	90
	Blank	4
	Claude Dupont	1
Board of Selectman	Howard Bronstein	85
	Blank	10
1st Constable	Merton D. Taylor, Sr.	94
	Blank	1
2nd Constable	Edward Morann	91
	Blank	4
Hamp. Council of Gov.	Peg Keller	90
	Blank	5
Library Trustee	Ann Kohn	93
	Blank	2
Moderator	Laurie Israel	91
	Penn Moulton	1
	Blank	3
School Committee	Heather Davis	94
	Blank	1
Town Clerk	Ruth Osgood	91
	Blank	4
Tree Warden	Winton Pitcoff	90
	Claude Dupont	1
	Blank	4

## May 7, 2016 ANNUAL ELECTION

<b>Board of Selectman</b>	Claude Dupont III	33
	Leslie Rule	76
	Blank	2
<b>Library Trustee</b>	Lynn Robbins	103
	Other	1
	Blank	7
<b>School Committee</b>	Leslie Rule	93
	Other	4
	Blank	14



Elaine Holder

## BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The year began with 465 registered voters consisting of 128 Democrat, 36 republican, 1 Green, 1 Green Rainbow, 1 Interdependent 3rd Party and 303 unenrolled

The year ended with 481 registered voters consisting of 126 Democrat, 37 republican, 4 Green Rainbow, 1 Interdependent 3rd Party, 4 United Independent Party and 303 unenrolled

**John Westwood — Chair**  
**Linda Melle**  
**Robert Fusco**  
**Ruth Osgood**



Elaine Holder

## TAX COLLECTOR

	Real estate Balances As of June 30, 2015	Personal Property Balances As of June 30, 2016	Motor Vehicle Balances As of June 30, 2016	Other Excise Balances As of June 30, 2016
2016	49,193.21	180.96	6,759.80	4074.3
2015	24,387.32	-409.27	775.88	
2014	8,480.06	83.19	567.29	
2013	7,482.13	0	1,606.54	
Prior Years	7,497.04	380.22	3,962.22	0.00
Totals	97,039.76	235.10	13,671.73	4,074.30

**Grand Totals: 115,020.89**

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

First Quarter: August 1, Second Quarter: November 1, Third Quarter: February 1, Fourth Quarter: May 1.

To keep postage to a minimum, I send out First Quarter and Second Quarters together and the Third and Fourth are mailed out separately.

Respectfully submitted

**Heather Davis**

**Tax Collector**

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

### Tax Rate Recapitulation for Fiscal Year 2016

#### July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016

Total amount to be raised:	\$2,061,693.78
Total estimated receipts and revenues	
from other sources:	457,218.00
Net amount to be raised by taxation (Tax Levy):	1,604,475.78

#### Valuation by Class

Residential	\$67,426,616.00
Commercial	7,823,587.00
Industrial	775,500.00
Personal Property	9,045,244.00

#### Total Property Valuation

**\$85,072,947.00**

#### Levy by Class

Residential	\$1,271,703.70
Commercial	147,552.85
Industrial	14,625.93
Personal Property	170,593.30

#### Total Tax Levy

**\$1,604,475.78**

#### Tax Rate

**\$17.83**

#### Number of real estate transfers

received in calendar year 2015 31

#### Number of motor vehicle excise bills sent:

For registration year 2015	128	\$ 4,295.81
For registration year 2016	752	67,537.35

#### Number of motor vehicle abatements granted:

For registration year 2014	1	45.00
For registration year 2015	9	421.35
For registration year 2016	17	1,329.68

Exemptions for real estate granted: 9 4,775.00

Abatements for real estate granted: 1 237.62

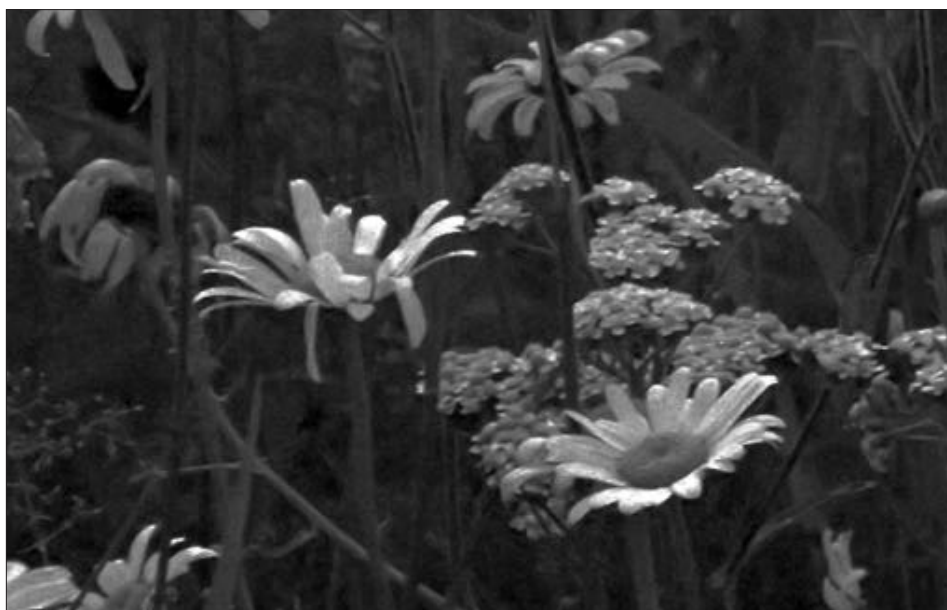
#### Tax Exempt Property: Value:

Town, State, Charities, Audubon:	10,383,800.00
75 parcels exempted tax dollars	195,838.47

Respectfully Submitted,

**Claude DuPont III, Chairman**

**Dudley Williams, Helene Tamarin**



Pleun bouricius

# All Departments Expenditure Report

From 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CARRY FWD	ORIG BUD	AMENDED	ENCUMB	EXPEND	UNENCUM BAL	% EXP
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>							
Board of Selectmen		5,000.00			5,000.00		100.00 %
Town Office Expense		10,000.00			8,491.68	1,508.32	84.91 %
Treasurer		11,345.00	373.04		11,345.04	373.00	96.81 %
Administrative Secretary		17,000.00	0.04		17,000.04		100.00 %
Moderator		30.00			30.00		100.00 %
Accountant		11,530.00	-0.04		11,529.96		100.00 %
Tax Title Expense		10,000.00			5,238.49	4,761.51	52.38 %
Training/Seminar Expense		500.00	-373.00			127.00	0.00 %
Town Counsel		6,000.00			1,408.39	4,591.61	23.47 %
Assistant Town Clerk Salary		500.00			500.00		100.00 %
Assessors	1.50	5,305.00	162.00		5,467.92	0.58	99.98 %
Assessors Salaries		40,335.41	-162.00		40,086.92	86.49	99.78 %
Tax Collector		11,500.00			7,756.12	3,743.88	67.44 %
Collectors Salaries		11,015.00	0.04		11,015.04		100.00 %
Town Clerk		6,730.00			3,386.59	3,343.41	50.32 %
Town Clerk Salary		6,425.00	0.04		6,425.04		100.00 %
Conservation Commission		500.00			409.00	91.00	81.80 %
Finance Committee		150.00			129.00	21.00	86.00 %
Planning Board		400.00	300.00		694.38	5.62	99.19 %
Zoning Board		200.00				200.00	0.00 %
Hamp. Council of Govt.		804.56			402.28	402.28	50.00 %
Highway Salaries		189,000.00			180,424.00	8,576.00	95.46 %
Highway General		50,000.00			47,944.37	2,055.63	95.88 %
Machinery Upkeep		60,000.00	15,000.00		71,207.95	3,792.05	94.94 %
Dump Body		20,000.00			19,376.58	623.42	96.88 %
Winter Roads		50,000.00	54,500.00		103,936.19	563.81	99.46 %
Street Lights		675.00			554.13	120.87	82.09 %
Mohawk Reg. School Operat		590,950.00			590,950.00		100.00 %
Mohawk Regional School		27,73.00			27,473.00		100.00 %
Vocational Tuition		196,029.00			87,443.05	108,585.95	44.60 %
School Committee Expense		775.00			627.70	147.30	80.99 %
Shaw Memorial Library		15,477.00			15,477.00		100.00 %
C. Frank.Vet. Dist.		1,309.00			1,309.00		100.00 %
Cemetery Commission		4,350.00			3,647.19	702.81	83.84 %
Veterans' Graves/Mem. Day		100.00			100.00		0.00 %
Police Department		11,986.00			4,425.08	7,560.92	36.91 %
Radio Repair & Maint.		2,000.00			2,000.00		0.00 %
Police Salaries		9,000.00			5,649.96	3,350.04	62.77 %
Fire Department		20,500.00			20,369.14	130.86	99.36 %
Highland Ambulance EMS		13,197.00			13,197.00		100.00 %
Highland Ambulance Capital		1,159.00			1,159.00		100.00 %
Blackboard Connect		2,000.00			1,602.71	397.29	80.13 %
Fire Chief Salary		4,500.00			4,500.00		100.00 %
Lifepak 1000 Defibrillator		4,000.00			3,239.65	760.35	80.99 %
Highland Ambulance/EMS Bldg. Cap.		1,140.00			1,140.00		0.00 %
Building Alarms		1,240.00			1,078.00	162.00	86.93 %
Building Inspector	120.00	9,000.00			7,907.27	1,212.73	86.70 %
Plumbing Inspector		1,800.00			1,800.00		100.00 %
Electrical Inspector		2,070.00			1,800.00	270.00	86.95 %
Emergency Management/CD		1,000.00			1,000.00		0.00 %
Animal Control Officer		1,000.00			1,000.00		100.00 %
Animal Control Off. Exp.		600.00			364.16	235.84	60.69 %
Barn & Cattle Inspector		200.00			200.00		100.00 %
Immunizations		500.00			500.00		0.00 %
EMT Training		2,000.00			435.00	1,565.00	21.75 %
Tree Warden		3,000.00			2,200.00	800.00	73.33 %
Compactor		24,409.00			16,604.37	7,804.63	68.02 %
Compactor Salary		5,547.00			5,137.45	409.55	92.61 %
Hilltown Res. Mgmt Coop		1,630.60			1,630.60		100.00 %
Compactor Shed/Installation		3,000.00	886.88		3,886.88	2	0.00 %
Loader Loan		27,150.00	360.00		27,510.00		100.00 %

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CARRY FWD	ORIG BUD	AMENDED	ENCUMB	EXPEND	UNENCUM BAL	% EXP
Public Safety Bldg. Bond Prin.		9,537.00			9,537.00		100.00 %
Hwy Dump Truck w/ Wing Loan		20,060.00			20,060.00		100.00 %
Int. Long-term Debt		18,568.17			18,568.17		100.00 %
Int. Short-term Debt		1,000.00				1,000.00	0.00 %
Stabilization		22,444.00			22,444.00		100.00 %
Insurance		62,005.00			47,295.73	14,709.27	76.27 %
Town Building Repair		12,000.00	-470.00		1,235.05	10,294.95	10.71 %
ADA		100.00				100.00	0.00 %
Twn. Bldg. Operations	131.53	45,000.00	7,870.00		52,942.72	58.81	99.88 %
Twn. Bldg. Sup/Maint/Cust		12,000.00	100.00		12,086.40	13.60	99.88 %
Hallock Building Repairs	35,000.00				16,633.33	18,366.67	47.52 %
Town Reports		1,000.00			781.00	219.00	78.10 %
Council on Aging		737.00			737.00		0.00 %
Recreation Committee		2,760.00			1,046.51	1,713.49	37.91 %
Flags/Flowers		300.00			256.61	43.39	85.53 %
Town Flags		500.00			175.00	325.00	35.00 %
Historical Commission		50.00			50.00		0.00 %
Agricultural Commission		200.00			200.00		0.00 %
WiredWest Dues		1,000.00			1,000.00		100.00 %
County Retirement		39,455.00	2,478.00		41,933.00		100.00 %
Medicare		4,500.00			4,316.67	183.33	95.92 %
Unemployment		750.00	60.70		810.70		100.00 %
Chapter 32B Medical Ins.	1,018.38	56,305.41			51,641.64	5,682.15	90.08 %
Reserve Fund		3,000.00	-60.82			2,939.18	0.00 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,271.41</b>	<b>1,828,308.15</b>	<b>81,024.88</b>		<b>1,715,145.85</b>	<b>230,458.59</b>	
<b>Total GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>36,271.41</b>	<b>1,828,308.15</b>	<b>81,024.88</b>		<b>1,715,145.85</b>	<b>230,458.59</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36,271.41</b>	<b>1,828,308.15</b>	<b>81,024.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,715,145.85</b>	<b>230,458.59</b>	



The State Senate of Massachusetts celebrate Eddy Moran, Paula King, and Dennis Thatcher for their many years of outstanding service to our town of Plainfield and the surrounding communities. Thank you!



## GENERAL ACCOUNT ASSETS

CASH	ASSETS	LIABILITIES
General Cash	831,839.01	
<b>TOTAL FOR CASH</b>		<b>831,839.01</b>

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Personal Prop Taxes F2012	377.22	
Personal Prop Taxes F2014	83.19	
Personal Prop Taxes 2016	180.96	
Personal Prop Taxes F1998	3.00	
<b>TOTAL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>		<b>644.37</b>

REAL ESTATE TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Real Estate Taxes F2004	143.50	
Real Estate Taxes F2008	783.61	
Real Estate Taxes F2010	34.49	
Real Estate Taxes F2012	6,535.44	
Real Estate Taxes F2013	7,493.76	
Real Estate Taxes F2014	8,480.06	
Real Estate Taxes F2015	25,408.62	
Real Estate Taxes F2016	53,760.39	
Real Estate Taxes F1999	0.33	
<b>TOTAL FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES</b>		<b>102,640.20</b>

MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Motor Vehicle Ex F2009 415.95		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2010 703.68		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2011 1,572.11		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2012 948.28		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2013 1,445.97		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2014 593.44		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2015 731.08		
Motor Vehicle Ex F2016 8,348.98		
<b>TOTAL FOR MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES</b>		<b>14,759.49</b>

FARM EXCISE TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Farm Animal Excise	4,069.30	
Forest Products Cut	5.00	
<b>TOTAL FOR FARM EXCISE TAXES</b>		<b>4,074.30</b>

TAX TITLES & POSSESSIONS	Assets	Liabilities
Tax Titles	65,884.34	
Tax Possessions	47,229.35	
<b>TOTAL FOR TAX TITLES &amp; POSSESSIONS</b>		<b>113,113.69</b>

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	Assets	Liabilities
Highway Chapter 291B	240,601.76	
<b>TOTAL FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>		<b>240,601.76</b>

LOANS AUTHORIZED	Assets	Liabilities
Loans Authorized	1,130,000.00	
Due frm Whiting Strt Fund	391.09	
<b>TOTAL FOR LOANS AUTHORIZED</b>		<b>1,130,391.09</b>

GRANTS	Assets	Liabilities
FY'14 EMPG Grant	1,499.99	
<b>TOTAL FOR GRANTS</b>		<b>1,499.99</b>

OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE	Assets	Liabilities
Overlay F1995	125.29	
Overlay F1998	412.20	
Overlay F2009	474.88	
<b>TOTAL FOR OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE</b>		<b>1,012.37</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,440,609.50</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,440,609.50</b>
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## GENERAL ACCOUNT LIABILITIES

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Personal Prop Taxes F2015		409.27
<b>TOTAL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>		<b>409.27</b>

REVENUE	Assets	Liabilities
Revenue Fiscal 2017		211,297.00
<b>TOTAL FOR REVENUE</b>		<b>211,297.00</b>

AGENCY	Assets	Liabilities
Federal Withholding		269.28
ING		39.00
Medicare Withholding		41.14
State Withholding		157.11
County Retirement		251.56
License to Carry/State		281.25
BC/BS - Officials		1,329.04
Health Insurance Withholdings		233.01
Unclaimed checks		187.93
<b>TOTAL FOR AGENCY</b>		<b>2,789.32</b>

GRANTS	Assets	Liabilities
Elections - State		316.50
Library Grant		20,676.35
Cultural Council		4,116.50
Cult Council Enrich Fund		660.00
Town Hall Project Gifts		660.00
Town Hall Association		4,256.40
Dog Kennel Gift		50.00
Emergency Management/FEMA		2,297.00
Homeland Security Grant		167.74
Septic System Rpr. Grant		62,740.99
Community Policing Grant		527.10
Health Bd Emer Prep Grant		1,469.30
BoH Small Scale Grant		2,100.00
Solarize Mass Grant		305.72
Police Dept. Donations		7,388.66
Council on Aging Gifts		2,560.37
Library Gifts		3,671.44
Cemetery Gifts		300.00
Cemetery (Funds Approp. for Use)		17.87
Recreation/General		4,315.64
Baseball Activities Donations		1,000.00
Playstructure @ Ballfield		2,478.85
Flag Gifts		220.00
WiredWest Donations		4.76
Library Addition		1,497.63
Historical Comm Donation		11.74
<b>TOTAL FOR GRANTS</b>		<b>123,810.56</b>

REVOLVING	Assets	Liabilities
Deputy Tax Collector Fees		459.00
Off-Duty Police Detail		649.00
Insurance Claim		206.33
Insurance Claim - Fire House		9,160.58
Ch 148A Municipal Enforcement Fines		200.00
Loans Authorized Unissued		1,130,000.00
<b>TOTAL FOR REVOLVING</b>		<b>1,140,674.91</b>

RCPTS RESVRD FOR APPROP	Assets	Liabilities
Cemetery Lot Int./Perpet. Care		1,490.39
Conservation Comm/Wetland		1,155.30
Library Sales & Fines		143.00
Eversource West St. Reim.		30,558.00
<b>TOTAL FOR RCPTS RESVRD FOR APPROP</b>		<b>33,346.69</b>



<b>OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Overlay F1996		496.22
Overlay F1997		697.78
Overlay F1999		1,151.11
Overlay F2000		850.51
Overlay F2001		206.62
Overlay F2002		27.81
Overlay F2003		591.85
Overlay F2004		1,038.08
Overlay F2005		3,668.06
Overlay F2006		3,960.26
Overlay F2007		5,074.40
Overlay F2008		5,215.43
Overlay F 2010		7,761.18
Overlay F 2011		9,863.66
Overlay F2012		3,078.29
Overlay F2013		8,386.18
Overlay F2014		7,693.56
Overlay F2015		5,428.08
Overlay F2016		8,061.44
<b>TOTAL FOR OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE</b>		<b>73,250.52</b>

<b>REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COL</b>	
Tax Title & Poss. Rev.	113,113.69
Motor Vehicle Excise Rev	14,759.49
Special Tax Revenue	4,074.30
Hwy Chapter 291B Revenue	240,601.76
Cemetery Lot Revenue	14,610.00
CDBG Housing Rehab Repayment	17,339.32
<b>TOTAL REV. RESERVED UNTIL COL</b>	<b>404,498.56</b>

<b>SURPLUS REVENUE</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Surplus Revenue		450,532.67
<b>TOTAL FOR SURPLUS REVENUE</b>		<b>450,532.67</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,440,609.50</b>

## TRUST FUNDS ACCOUNTS

<b>TRUST FUNDS</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Trust Cash	452,238.91	
Due To General Fund		391.09
Cemetery PC Fund		2,708.96
Arts Lottery Fund		951.14
M. Arvilla Dyer Lib. Fnd		2,792.66
Martha Smith Library Fund		3,885.27
Whiting Street Fund		3,574.74
Stabilization		437,935.05
<b>TOTAL FOR TRUST FUNDS</b>	<b>452,238.91</b>	<b>452,238.91</b>

<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
<b>Inside Debt Limit</b>	<b>387,693.00</b>	
<b>Public Safety Building Loan</b>		<b>305,163.00</b>
<b>Loader Loan</b>		<b>82,530.00</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR LONG TERM DEBT</b>	<b>387,693.00</b>	<b>387,693.00</b>

## PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board began the year working closely with the Energy Committee to finalize recommended amendments to the zoning bylaw to regulate large-scale photovoltaic installations in town. Several information meetings and a public hearing were held. The board also sent out an explanatory mailing to all town voters prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Passing this zoning bylaw amendment was an important step in achieving Green Community status for the town of Plainfield.

Several town residents brought proposals for bylaws which did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Planning Board, and they were referred to the Select Board with information on the process for proposing new town bylaws.

The board reviewed one "approval-not-required" parcel division for a property on Bow Street. The board also received notifications from abutting towns regarding special permit applications and from the state Department of Public Utilities regarding pipeline hearings.

## BROADBAND COMMITTEE

On May 24, 2016, the Plainfield Board of Selectmen established the Broadband Committee as a 7-person board, with the mission to facilitate the acquisition, installation, and long-term sustainability of high-speed Internet. The committee directed to consult with, advise, and work closely with the selectboard and the Plainfield Light & Telecommunications (MLP) to make recommendations regarding providers, technologies, or other relevant issues. The short-term priority is to enable broadband to all Plainfield residences and businesses. The committee was tasked with gathering information from prospective providers and analyzing costs and benefits as needed for technology needs.

The committee includes town volunteers from the selectboard, finance committee, the Wired West delegate, MLP manager, and representatives from across the town. They met sixteen times in 2016 to work towards the ambitious goals set by the selectboard, including one brief but intrepid meeting held outdoors in a December snowstorm due to lack of a key to the town hall. Individuals from the committee also spent countless hours working on their own on several projects.

Much of the committee's time was spent navigating the process setup by the state's Mass Broadband Initiative to gain access to the \$650,000 in broadband incentive funds that the state had earmarked for Plainfield. This "last-mile readiness process" required the committee to prepare a lengthy financial analysis, develop a preliminary technical specification, and get approval from the town's bond counsel and the state's Division of Local Service indicating that the town's plan was financially sustainable. It was anticipated that final approval would be forthcoming early in 2017.

The broadband committee also published several status updates in the Plainfield Post and led a discussion at the All Boards Meeting in September. Board members kept in close contact with our neighboring towns, both to learn from their research and to ensure that we are able to work together over the long run in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

While much work remains to be completed, the Broadband Committee is confident that 2017 will see rapid progress towards providing broadband Internet to town residents and businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sally Silberberg, Chair**

**David Kramer, Kimberly Longey, Leslie Rule,**

**Brian Hawthorne, Rebecca Coletta, Michae Lumsden**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

From 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

### RECEIPTS

July, 2015	\$186,742.92
August	288,415.36
September	90,278.00
October	151,573.54
November	164,713.23
December	317,727.04
January, 2016	256,488.28
February	220,929.82
March	149,649.57
April	315,542.32
May	208,882.84
June, 2016	66,645.58

**Total FY 2016** **\$2,417,588.50**

### DEBT OUTSTANDING

Outstanding	Retirements as of June 30, 2015	Outstanding as of June 30, 2016
Public Service Bldg \$305,163.00	\$314,700.00	\$9,537.00
Hwy Loader 82,530.00	110,040.00	27,510.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$424,740.00</b>	<b>\$37,047.00</b>
<b>\$387,693.00</b>		

### TAX TITLE

*The Town holds the following real estate parcels for nonpayment of real property taxes, subject to a right of redemption under the Commonwealth's Tax Taking Statute Ch 60, S 54. The amount shown below was certified by the Town Collector and includes the outstanding taxes, tax collector's interest and fees. The amounts as of June 30, 2016 are shown:*

Record Owner	Address	Lot designation (map, block, lot)	Total due as of FYE 2016
Berry, Alice	Hill Street	21A, 0, 100	\$997.32
Dyer, Lena	Campbell Road	50, 0, 180	18,232.60
Dyer, Lena	River Road	21A, 0, 20	9,321.63
Grossman, Richard	Lower Liberty Street	14, 0, 30.1	1,583.09
Jackson, Douglas	West Main Street	140, 0, 70	271.83
Lashway, Dennis	24 North Street	9, 0, 6	227.62
Lesure, Donald	West Main Street	140, 0, 370	413.58
Owner Unknown	W. Main Street	15C, 0, 390	10,602.93
Owner Unknown	Windsor Avenue	240, 0, 90	457.39
Prentice, Gregor	87 South Central	280, 0, 430	10,731.67
Rice, D. Estate of	Off East Main Street	160, 0, 280	406.58
Ridel, Doris	28 Grant Street	100, 0, 10	3941.84
Ritchie, D. & M.	134 West Hill Road	270, 0, 20	8,644.46
Stahl, Jaylin	Off East Main Street	170, 0, 100	327.35

**Total - June 30, 2016** **\$66,159.89**

*Footnote: the amounts shown above do not include treasurer's interest which accrues at 16%, any attorney fees and/or other legal/court costs incurred, nor redemption fees.*

Respectfully submitted,  
**Allan L. Kidston**  
**Treasurer**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The expense budget for F'2016 was \$1,945,604, an increase of 1.0% over the F'2015 budget. However, actual expenditures were \$1,734,250, an increase of 1.1% over F'2015 expenditures. Expenditures were 88% of budget for F'2016 and the same for F'2015. The surplus (budget less spent) was \$231,060 for F'2016 versus \$230,458 for F'2015. Free cash, our rainy-day account, was \$239,683 at the end of F'2016 versus \$xxx,xxx at the end of F'2015.

Looking at the F'2016 budget in more detail, three departments account for 82.4% of the total budget with Education at 43.5%, General Government at 19.7% and Highways & Roads at 19.2%. Although the Education budget is the largest, we have very little direct control over costs which can vary significantly depending on how many regular (~\$17K/student) and vocational (~\$22K/student) students are enrolled by the Fall. Having to budget for those costs several months before we know the actual number of students adds to the complexity of the process. Budgeting for Highways & Roads is also challenging and can vary by +/- \$50K each year, depending on winter weather conditions.

Our biggest financial challenge for the future is to reduce the 4.9% annual tax rate increase which, over 10 years has risen 70.5% from \$11.60 in F'2006 to \$18.86 in F'2016. Taxable property values have also increased over the same period which, combined with a reduced property tax base attributable to transfers of land to tax-exempt organizations (MA state land, Audubon, Hilltown Land Trust) or conversions to a lower tax rate status (agricultural protection, historic preservation, forestry, recreational), has seen the tax rate increase 82.8% from F'2006 to F'2016. Although there is always some room to reduce expenses, our ability to make significant cuts is limited.

The Finance Committee is actively working with individuals/committees that submit and manage departmental budgets, to ensure that the Town does everything possible to control costs while also exploring all avenues to increase revenue growth. Initiatives by other Town committees will have a positive impact on the bottom line. For example, Green communities grant will help reduce operating costs of town buildings. Cooperation with neighboring towns on EMS/ambulance could reduce the cost of providing emergency services. A recent zoning bylaw will encourage the construction of private solar farms, which will increase taxation revenues. Advocating for small town needs within the rural caucus, and other groups, will ensure that state representatives in Boston hear and understand our unique needs and challenges, which can differ significantly from those of larger cities. And of course, the broadband project will be a substantial game changer in terms of leveling the playing field with towns that already have universal Internet access, although that project is still 1-2 years away from reality.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Lewis Robbins, Chair**  
**Robert Baker**  
**David Kramer**  
**Robert Persing**  
**Sylvane Stockwell**  
**Tim Walter**  
**Roberta Wooldridge**

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### Mohawk Trail Regional School District

I have had the good fortune of serving the wonderful communities of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and Hawlemont Regional School District since 2005. My journey with Mohawk began with severe fiscal crisis, and my journey with Hawlemont soon became a similar challenge. Over the next decade, both Mohawk and Hawlemont underwent organizational transformations that resulted in both districts performing at historically high educational levels in 2016.

In June, Mohawk High School was awarded a silver medal by U.S. News & World Report in their 2016 ranking of the best high schools in the United States. On a national level, U.S. News & World Report ranked Mohawk 2,567 of 28,561 high schools in the United States, which places Mohawk among the top 9% of high schools in the nation. On a state level, U.S. News & World Report ranked Mohawk 74 of 353 high schools in Massachusetts, which places Mohawk among the top 21% of high schools in the Commonwealth. Two key principles underlie the U.S. News comprehensive rankings methodology: (1) that a great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college bound and (2) that the high school must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show that it is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators. We are very proud of our students, educators and families who have all contributed significantly to this noteworthy achievement. Congratulations!!

With Mohawk's commitment to pre-school programming district-wide, enrollment of three and four-year olds increased to a new high of 122 students in 2016. The largest increase in preschool enrollment occurred at Sanderson Academy, which now has three preschool classes! We are hopeful that this trend will continue into the foreseeable future, which would bode very well for the district long-term. In 2016, both Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School (BSE) and Colrain Central School (CCS) experienced increases in enrollment. BSE enrollment increased 8% to 279 students, and CCS enrollment increased 13% to 117 students. In contrast, Heath Elementary experienced a precipitous drop in enrollment from 50 to 29 students. As a result, both the Mohawk School Committee and the Town of Heath are exploring the viability of Heath Elementary and are considering closing the school and tuitioning the Heath elementary students to another Mohawk elementary school, Hawlemont Regional Elementary School, or Rowe Elementary School.

In 2016, Hawlemont entered into the equivalent of a school renaissance. With its exciting agriculturally-based curriculum Hawlemont, Agriculture, and You (HAY) just beginning to take shape, Hawlemont's enrollment spiked 23% to 125 students. Most of this growth was due to an increase in parents' choosing to enroll their students into Hawlemont from other districts. In fact, for the first time ever, more students school-choiced into Hawlemont than school-choiced out of Hawlemont. This amazing turnaround from very difficult circumstances only a few years ago is due to the extraordinary efforts of the entire Hawlemont school community. Kudos all around! Another important highlight during 2016 was the installation of a wood pellet heating system in Hawlemont, which is projected to save considerable budget dollars over the long term. This renewable heating system also presents exciting learning opportunities for our students, particularly in the areas of science and math. For example, we will begin tracking Hawlemont's new carbon footprint, which we anticipate dropping considerably from the level previously generated by the former oil-based heating system.

On behalf of our students, I thank the entire Mohawk and Hawlemont school communities for your dedicated support of our children's education. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael A. Buoniconti**

## CO-PRINCIPALS

### Mohawk Trail Regional High School

Mohawk was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as a Silver Medal school in 2016. Schools are ranked based on student performance on state testing as well as other factors (including attendance and graduation rates) that indicate how well they prepare students for college. Using a variety of measures, *U.S. News and World Report* places Mohawk in the top 21% of schools in Massachusetts and top 9% of schools in the country. Two key principles inform this ranking process: that a great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college-bound, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show it is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators.

Mohawk educators innovate to create rich learning experiences for our students. One example is the new Integrated Arts and English course collaboration between visual arts teacher Rachel Silverman and English teacher Rachel Hoogstraten. Ninth-grade students had the option to select the English 9 section that was partnered with an arts course so that they examine connections with the visual arts as they engage in exploration of literary works as diverse as Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Marjane Satrapi's memoir *Persepolis*, and John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*.

After several years in development as a pilot course, this year the Senior Capstone Seminar is a graduation requirement for all seniors. Four educators collaborate in offering sections of the course throughout the day: English and History teacher Bill Drake, English teacher Erik Sussbauer, French and English teacher Michelle MacInnes, and Science and Computer Science teacher Downey Meyer. The Capstone course is designed to provide students with structured support as they pursue a substantive project based on their personal interests and passions; in many instances students choose a project that is associated with a field of study or career path that interests them. The following is a sampling of these diverse projects: Max Carr is building a weather balloon; Angela Szweczyk is creating a line of clothing and plans on having a fashion show as her final project; Tyler Rice is conducting a social media experiment about phone usage and people's emotional response to having their phones taken away; Sophie Raphael has been studying how using music can help students learn and retain vocabulary words and she has spent time working in a middle school teacher's classroom to test her theory; Brendan Gerry is working on fabricating a pig roaster; Rebecca Scranton is exploring mathematics teaching by observing math classes; Mahalia Dean is building a web site to share her family's long history in the region; Emma Musante is putting together an art show; Christina Tiberii is documenting her work as an assistant director for the production of the play *"The Mouse That Roared"* that was staged December 16; Christina Lively is setting up a 4-H club at Mohawk; Torsten Sloan Anderson is working on creating genetically modified bacteria that glows; Adam Hallenbeck, Zeke Rodriguez, and Sarah Paige are writing and recording their own songs to record a CD; and Autumn Smith is developing a business plan for setting up a bakery business.

Mohawk continues to expand offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) with Robotics and Exploring Computer Science available to all high school students. Math teachers increasingly use Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) approaches to math instruction which emphasize active engagement and problem-solving and high school science teachers use Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning approaches. Seventh grade science teacher Samantha Rutz was honored by the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers (MAST) as the Franklin County Science Educator of the Year.

Mohawk students pursue advanced study in a wide range of subjects. In 2016 students took Advanced Placement exams in the following subjects: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Comparative Government and Politics, English Language and Composition, English



Literature and Composition, European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Physics, U.S. Government, and U.S. History. Members of the Class of 2016 are continuing their education at Brandeis University, Campbell University, Clarkson University, Endicott College, Elms College, Fitchburg State College, Franklin Pierce University, George Washington University, Greenfield Community College, Green Mountain College, High Point University, Holyoke Community College, Keene State College, Mount Holyoke College, Oberlin College, Occidental College, Regis College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Smith College, Stonehill College, Southern Connecticut State, St. Lawrence University, Syracuse University, University of Massachusetts - Amherst, University of New England, University of Advancing Technology, and University of Tampa.

Technology continues to enrich student learning. The Class of 2016 gave 3-D printers as a class gift, and we have expanded our use of Chromebooks in the classroom. This year School Librarian Emily Willis began teaching Digital Literacy courses to middle school students, emphasizing responsible and informed use of online resources and media literacy. Teachers throughout our building focus on critical thinking and literacy skills to prepare students to be informed citizens.

Mohawk's extensive athletic program offers many opportunities. Athletic Director Fred Redeker notes that 79% of the graduating Class of 2016 played at least one sport while at Mohawk. Of those 57 students, 52 played at the varsity level of their respective sports, and 90% of those who played varsity participated in post-season play.

Our school uses Restorative Practices such as restorative circles, mediation conversations, and school-based community service assignments as part of an integrated approach to student discipline. Mohawk teachers and students have engaged in dialogue circles to support conversations regarding school culture and climate, and topics such as the role of technology in students' lives.

At the mid-point of the 2016-2017 school year, enrollment in grades 7-12 is 430. The seventh grade has 81 students and the eighth grade has 93 students. There are 57 students in grade 9, 68 in 10th grade, 69 juniors, and 62 seniors. Four students are enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Lynn R. Dole and Marisa Mendonsa**  
 Co-Principals

## PRINCIPAL Sanderson Academy

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as the Sanderson Academy principal. 2016 saw generally strong academic performances from students, some staffing additions, and work continuing on a number of mandates from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Our enrollment as of the end of the 2016 was 148 students in grades preschool through sixth grade. The number of students at each grade level was as follows: 37 children in the preschool, 11 children in kindergarten, 17 children in first grade, 15 children in grade two, grade three had 19 students, fourth grade had 12 students, fifth grade had 13 students and 24 students were in our sixth grade class. All classes were grouped heterogeneously.

The faculty for the 2016-2017 school year consisted of ten full-time classroom teachers, one special education teacher, one full-time reading teacher, and one full-time math interventionist. Specialists providing services in our school include a psychologist three days per week, a speech/language pathologist that services students three days per week, a full time nurse, and occupational and physical therapists, each for less than one half day per week. We have part time art, music, and physical education teachers who provide students with one hour of class time weekly in each subject area. Additional time is offered for band and

chorus students in the upper grades. We also have a part-time library manager and nine paraprofessionals. We welcomed Kathleen Wyckoff as the third preschool teacher. Sarah Forbes and Jennifer Lagoy transferred from the Heath Elementary School to teach kindergarten and fourth grade. We welcomed Susan Fuller and Becky Gougeon as paraprofessionals. We also welcomed Julia Shippee for one day a week to teach classroom music and chorus. Denise Sessions joined our staff as the Cafeteria Manager. In addition, we have two part-time before and after-school staff. The program allows students in grades preschool through second grade to receive care from 7:30 to 8:30 and 3:00 to 5:30 each day for a daily rate.

The spring of 2016 saw Sanderson Academy students again performing well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Achievement System (MCAS) tests. In the three areas assessed, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology, our students performed at levels, which were similar to or better than the performances of other students in our District or State. About 74% of our students performed in the advanced and proficient category in English Language Arts and about 67% of students performed in the advanced and proficient category in mathematics. 62% of students performed in the advanced and proficient on Science and Technology assessment.

The Sanderson Academy Safety Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to address school safety. We continually revise our safety binders. We have monthly fire drills, at least three lockdown drills a year, and school evacuation drills. Many of these drills include local and state emergency service personnel. The trail that connects the school to the town garage, our evacuation site, is complete.

Thank you citizens of Ashfield and Plainfield for all you do to support your community school!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Emma Liebowitz M.Ed.**  
 Principal

## SPECIAL EDUCATION and PUPIL SERVICES

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional Special Education Department serves students in the Sanderson, Colrain, Hawlemont, Buckland-Shelburne, and Mohawk Middle and High Schools. The primary function is to ensure that students with an IEP or a 504 are being serviced at a level required to make effective progress with supports outlined in their IEP or 504. According to state data, The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Districts have about 19% of their student population receiving special education services. Those services are in several areas: speech and language, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), counseling and academics. Every school has at least one special education teacher and an OT and PT who spend about one day a week in each school. Mohawk has a full time Speech Language Assistant and a part time Speech Language Pathologist. BSE has a full time and part time Speech Language Pathologist and Assistant. Colrain and Hawlemont share a full time Speech Language Pathologist and Assistant. Heath has a one day a week Speech Language Pathologist and Sanderson has a four day a week Speech Pathologist. Sanderson has three days of a Clinical School Psychologist. BSE and Colrain share an Adjustment Counselor and each has a School Psychologist. Hawlemont has a three day a week School Psychologist and Heath has a two day a week School Psychologist. The Middle and High Schools have a full time Adjustment Counselor and School Psychologist. The level of services in each building is based on population and the level of services legally required by an IEP.

With the support and initiative of several parents, the district was able to support a SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council). The council created by-laws, held monthly meetings and reached out

to parents looking for support. We hope this year enables us to continue the support those parents created. Over the last year, the districts had 12 students who were educated outside of the school district. Those students attended a school out of district for several reasons: 1) The district does not have a program that meets the student's level of need or 2) The student attended an out of district school prior to moving to the district and legally then is allowed to continue their placement in the school or 3) The last known address of the parent of the student was in our district and the DCF (Department of Children and Families) has placed the student in a residential school, requiring the district to pay for the educational component of the program.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Leann Loomis**  
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

## 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 77 applications; 28 were from seniors and 49 were from graduates. \$33,350 was our allotment for scholarships which we used 30% for seniors and 70% for graduates. The Committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources while graduates have fewer resources. 23 scholarships totaling \$10,000.00 were awarded to seniors (82% of applicants) 40 scholarships totaling \$23,350 were given to graduates (82%) of applicants.

From 1991- 2016 a total of \$909,975.00 has been awarded in scholarships. Mohawk seniors have received \$280,775.00 and \$629,200.00 has been awarded to Mohawk graduates.

The same formula for determining what percentages of the fund should be distributed as scholarships, which had been established by the School Committee and the management firm of Bartholomew and Co., was used again this year.

Once again the applications is available on line to the graduates and seniors can pick up their application at Mohawk

Press releases were published in both the Independent and the Greenfield Recorder in March containing information about the Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund.

There are fifteen 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, 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). Suzanne Crawford is the representative to the School Committee.

Officers are: Marge Porrovecchio and Robin Hartnett, Co-Chairs and Marion Scott is Secretary. Subcommittees are: Finance, Marion Taylor, Robin Hartnett and 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 liv-

ing in the nine town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs. Please call the Guidance Office at Mohawk for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted  
**Marion E. Scott, Secretary**

## MARY LYON FOUNDATION

### *Innovative Support for Local Education*

This year was highlighted by a gala celebration of the Mary Lyon Foundation's auspicious 25th anniversary. On August 6 at the Mary Lyon House in Buckland 25 doves were released to commemorate the 25 successful years that the foundation has provided services, programs, scholarships, mini-grants for school district staff, and professional development opportunities to enhance local education. Opening remarks were given by Dr. Bruce Willard, and Susan Daniels, a Mount Holyoke graduate, delivered the keynote speech. Bruce Willard, Jack Williams and David Newell were honored for their vision and early support of the Mary Lyon Foundation. The launch of the Putnam Hill Legacy Society with 15 founding members was officially announced. Our annual George Needham Business Award for extraordinary support of local education was presented to Blackmer Insurance Agency, and the Mohawk Outstanding Graduate Award was presented to Danny Field, formerly of Shelburne Falls, for his community contributions.

In September with our library partner, Arms Library, we distributed thousands of bookmarks at the Franklin County Fair and parade to kick-off our NEA Big Read of Luis Urrea's *Into the Beautiful North*. Funded by MassHumanities and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts' Franklin Fund, in October our Big Read hosted a vibrant Spirit of Place Community Day at Greenfield Community College (GCC). With support from GCC, Holyoke Community College (HCC), and generous cultural partners, we engaged families with music, storytelling, dance, art, poetry, a Dia de los Muertos altar, and a community meal. Afternoon panel discussions began with dynamic keynote speaker Sienna Wildfield of Hilltown Families. We also brought Mariachi Mexico Antiguo and the 1960 film version of "The Magnificent Seven" to Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls and will host the author at GCC and HCC in April 2017. We were the only organization in MA to receive one of the 77 coveted grants awarded this year by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Mary Lyon Foundation once again raised significant funds for mini-grants for innovative, educational projects in our local schools. The 11th annual Community Spelling Bee was held on November 10 at Mohawk Trail Regional School; 30 teams representing public and private schools, youth groups, senior citizens, civic organizations and businesses were led by Master of Ceremonies Jill Connolly and Spell Master Art Schwenger. A warm welcome was provided by Superintendent Michael Buoniconti, and Shelburne selectman Joe Judd convened a prestigious panel of judges. Winning the Grand Championship was the Cash Cow spelling bee team comprised of Samantha Rutz, Anneka Dunnington and Lauren Binger.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Myrtle Atkinson Foundation, TransCanada, Mayhew Steel Products, local financial institutions and businesses. We continue to provide warm clothes, food, eye-glasses, and other basic necessities for children in need through our ongoing Harper Gerry Student Assistance Fund, and we are grateful for the support of the United Way of Franklin County, the generous payroll deductions of school district staff, People's United Community Foundation, and many individual contributions that help us support children and their families.

Members of the Board of Directors for 2016 were Marion Taylor (Past President), Sylvia Orcutt (President), Hugh Knox (Vice President),



Sharon Hudson (Corresponding Secretary), Katherine McKay (Recording Secretary), Karen Fairbrother (Treasurer), Susan Schuman, Peter Stevens, Robin Morgan Huntley, Joanne LaCour, Lawrence Wells, Mohawk Trail Regional School student representatives Eli Shearer and Lilly Wells. Business Manager is Gina Sieber, and volunteer Office Manager is Sandy Gilbert. The Board of Directors joins us in thanking the many generous individuals, businesses and organizations in our community for making 2016 a highly successful year. The Mary Lyon Foundation is a 501(c)(3) community-based, non-profit organization that provides innovative support for education in our nine West County towns. Named in honor of Buckland-born educator Mary Lyon, who founded Mount Holyoke College in 1837, the organization continues to provide programs and services that greatly enhance the quality of local education.

**Sheila Damkoehler and Susan Samoriski, Co-Executive Directors**



*Another friend of Michael Melle*

Elaine Holder

## PLAINFIELD FIRE EMS DEPARTMENT

The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association purchased a trailer that is being used as a rescue trailer. It will transport our ice/cold water rescue equipment, as well as other rescue equipment to the scene. It will be used to transport our Kawasaki mule that we received a few years ago through the Federal Excess Equipment Program. The trailer can be used as a rehab trailer and/or a command center for extended operations.

We hosted three Massachusetts Fire Academy classes. In February we had a class on Solar Panels on how they worked and what to do in an emergency, in March we did a class on Air Management this was about Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, in April we held a class on Fire Attack this was about size up the scene and attacking the fire quickly and safely.

In May, Chief Dennis Thatcher, Captain Merton Taylor Jr, Lieutenant Matt Hardwick, Lieutenant Ellen Dupont, Brian Hawthorne, Claude Dupont, Robert Shearer, and Jamie Woolridge received an award for "Outstanding Life Saving Efforts" at the annual EMS banquet held on May 19 2016, for a two car accident in August 2015 in Cummington. In June, we held a First Responder program that was open to surrounding departments. We had firefighters from Williamstown attend the class. The first responder refresher course is required every three years for firefighters. In October, we held our 20 hour Bi-Annual EMT refresher course.

We participated in two live burns this year which gave us valuable hands on training with active fire. When the training was done, the houses were burnt down. DEP has control over all live fire training to make sure the air quality is not affected. The first house burned was in Hawley in June, and the second house was in Buckland in October. Communication is essentially at every incident. During a major storm, it is very important that we do not miss any radio traffic. We have added a second radio in the communication center, which also serves as are Emergency Operation Center. This will allow us to monitor multiply frequencies. This was funded by the Plainfield Volunteer



*The Moran family serving up at the best Chicken BBQ dinner New England has to offer.*



Elaine Holder

Firefighters Association. Through a MEMA grant, we purchased a radio that lets us communicate with Franklin County towns. In October, we had our Bi-Annual ambulance inspection. There were a few deficiencies to correct, but these have been corrected. We are now recertified to operate for another two years.

In November, the new generator was installed at the Public Safety Complex. This replaces the 12 year old generator that severed the town well. During the Ice Storm of 2008, it ran for 6 days straight with no problems. During the past 18 months, it has had problems starting. After many visits from a generator repair company, it was determined that the cost to repair was not cost effective. Funding for the new generator was an appropriation at the annual town meeting.

This year the Fire Service Commission awarded the Massachusetts Firefighter Service Award to Fire Chief/EMT Dennis Thatcher and Assistance Fire Chief/EMT David Alvord a certificate for 40 years of service, Firefighter/EMT Robert Shearer received a certificate for 20 years of service. Early in the year Captain Ed Morann received a certificate for 50 years of service, Captain/EMT Merton Taylor Jr. received a certificate for 25 years of service and Firefighter Andrew Stevens received a certificate for 20 years of service. The average longevity for a Volunteer Firefighter is 5 to 7 years making this award to these firefighters special.

Linda Moriarty passed away in September. She was Executive Director of Western Mass Emergency Services. She had a great understanding about the state regulations and how they affected the smaller towns. She was my go to person for question about first responders and EMT's, and helped us with grants on the EMS side of the department.

Calls for the year totaled 117, the break down is:

Medical	70	MVA	9
Mutual Aid	14	Power lines and trees down	16
Brush Fire	1	False Alarm	5
Illegal Burn	2		

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dennis Thatcher**  
**Fire Department**

*More friends of Michael Melle*



Elaine Holder

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Plainfield Police Dept responded to over 210 calls this past year as well as other duties preformed.

We were grateful to receive, as a gift a 2002 Ford Crown Vic from the Cummington Police Dept, Chief Mike Perkins. Many Thanks to them. Our older Crown Vic has been retired as a cruiser due to many mechanical problems. We will be primarily using the Cummington car for in-town calls and any summer details, as it has no heat.

Police in-service training hours have increased to approximately to 40hrs a year, not including first responder or EMT training, CPR, AED and firearms qualifications .

We are upgrading our radio system, which has been working well.

Thank You to all our residents who support our department and to the Police Dept for all they do.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Stacey Hudson, Chief**  
**Josh Shearer, Officer**  
**Ed Morann, Officer**  
**Trish Carlo, Officer**

**Sandy Morann, Special**  
**Mert Taylor Sr, Special**  
**Bernard Forgea, Special**

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2016 was another quiet year -- no State of Emergency was declared for Plainfield.

I attended meetings that MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) holds for Emergency managers, and stayed in communication with them on any current situations or potential threats.

Using an Emergency Management Planning Grant for \$2,220, audio-visual equipment ("smartboard" equipment, whiteboard, and projector) and a Fire Department portable radio (which has the frequency capability to communicate with Franklin County Fire Departments, which our other radios cannot do.) were purchased.

As I always have done, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the emergency response personnel that Plainfield is truly fortunate to have -- most get paid nothing for what they do (respond to emergencies, training, inspections, meetings and assisting in the maintenance/repair/acquisition of equipment, etc.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Merton Taylor Jr**  
**Emergency Management Director**

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2016 started out in the midst of a winter which was milder and less snowy than the previous one overall. Plowing and sanding the snow, sleet, and ice took most of our time into mid-April. Potholes, mud, drainage issues, and tree/branch cleanup were also dealt with during this time.

Spring and Summer started once again with mud issues on a couple sections of gravel roads -- then, as in every other year, work consisted of filling potholes/washouts, cleaning ditches, replacing culverts, grading and raking gravel roads, roadside mowing, brush cutting, line painting, paving, and sand clean up. The big road project for 2016 was paving 3 sections of 116 totaling 2 miles, and paving 3 short sections of West St. totaling 2,200 feet.

A new dump truck with all purpose stainless steel body, highway plow, and wing plow was approved at Town Meeting (much appreciated by the crew) , put out to bid, and then ordered. As of this writing, we are still waiting for the arrival of this much needed new piece of equip





Pleun Bouricius

Carolyn Hook and Karen Simon on banjo and fiddle at the Historical Society Fundraising Dinner.

ment. A fire alarm system was installed in the Highway Garage. Autumn work included a continuation of Spring and Summer work, along with leaf blowing, plow sticks, and winter preparations of the equipment.

The first plowable snow occurred on October 27 (6"), starting a more typical Plainfield winter compared to last winter. November and December featured more plowing and sanding. I would like to repeat from last year that considerable time and expense is being spent on keeping our aging fleet of equipment operational and able to pass State Inspection -- (2) 1996 (model year) dump trucks, a 1964 (model year) grader, a 1986 (model year) pickup, a 1992 (model year) pickup, and a 1987 (model year) backhoe are all in need of replacement. We also assist in the maintenance of fire apparatus.

I thank my crew Frank "Sparky" Skaling, Karl Dewkett, and Keith Bohonowicz for their work throughout the year. I also thank Ed Morann, Dennis Thatcher, Stacy Hudson, The Selectboard, and Town Office staff for their assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Merton Taylor, Jr**  
**Highway Superintendent**

## SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Massachusetts Library System has moved its western office from Whately to Northampton. The MLS-Northampton facility official opened the first of July.

Inter-Library loans has expanded its MLS delivery to Rhode Island.

Patricia Corley resigned as a trustee, Lynne Robbins was elected to fill the remaining year of Patricia's term.

This past year we purchased 375 new titles to add to our collection and for your reading pleasure. We filled over 600 inter-library loan requests.

We had two artist show their work.

- Deb Phillips from Worthington showed her watercolors
- Laurie Israel had an exhibit of the Northampton, *Cutlery Company and its artifacts*.

The following events were held at the library.

- People's Choice Award Winning Singer & Storyteller Davis Bates came to tell a few stories and sing songs.
- Our annual Valentines Day Tea
- We had 4 children attend the summer reading program "ON YOUR MARK, GET SET READ!"
- We held a book discussion lead by Allen Irvine on "Into The Beautiful North" by Luis Alberto Urrea
- Our annual book sale which is held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend
- In July we held a town wide tag sale on the library front lawn
- We received a free pass for The Clark Art Museum and Massachusetts State Parks for patrons to use

We need to thank the "Friends Of The Shaw Memorial Library" for purchasing passes to Mass MoCa, The Berkshire Museum and Norman Rockwell for patrons to use.

I would like to thank everyone that has given donations to the library throughout the year. And a special thank you to Gail for subbing when I need her.

LIBRARY HOURS:

TUESDAY 2-8 THURSDAY 5-8 SATURDAY 9-12

Respectfully Submitted:

**Denise Sessions - Director**

**Sandy Morann - Chair, Ann Kohn - Secretary**

**Patricia Corley - Resigned, Lynne Robbins**

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Spring clean up at The Hilltop Cemetery and The West Hill Cemetery was performed and the two cemeteries were mowed and trimmed four times during the season.

Flags were placed on graves of Veterans before Memorial Day 2016 by the Veterans' Graves Officer.

There were two cemetery plots sold in 2016 at \$200 each.

There were nine burials in the Hilltop Cemetery for 2016. Three were full earthen burials and six were ashes.

The Cemetery Commission, a volunteer group, has expressed interest and was granted permission to do work on gravestones in the old part of Hilltop Cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Ruth Osgood, Theresa Thatcher**

## VETERANS' GRAVES OFFICER

Two Plainfield veteran passed away in 2015:

**Robert Benson** and **Hugh Hawkins**.

Bob Benson served his country during in the U.S. Navy on destroyers during cold war in the 1950's.

Hugh Hawks served his country in the U. S. Army during the Korean War.

205 flags were placed on the veterans' graves in the Hilltop Cemetery, in the West Hill Cemetery, and on the Veterans' Memorial in front of the Plainfield Congregational Church. As required by State Law, the flags are set before Memorial Day, and are removed after Veterans' Day to prevent them from becoming frayed and faded during the winter.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dudley D. Williams, Veterans' Graves Officer**

## VETERANS SERVICES

Fiscal year 2016 saw the creation of the UPVUSD. By member count and by square miles this is the largest veterans' district in Massachusetts. We have strived to provide expanded services through increased satellite office hours, and a mobile office for home visits. Below are just some of the programs and services we help veterans' and their dependents with:

- M.G.L. Ch 115 benefit - Needs based program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents
- Assistance to veterans and dependents to help file for health care, pensions, and service-connected disabilities
- Homeless prevention assistance to veterans and their families
- Employment help with job searches, resumes, and job interview skills
- Burial assistance to include government markers, flag holders, internment, and VA burial reimbursement
- Massachusetts annuities and tax abatement assistance
- Veterans records retrieval and storage
- Referral to other public and private agencies to include housing, fuel assistance, employment, training, education
- Attend area outreach events (fairs, festivals, health care expos)
- District passed certification for VSOs as required by MA state law

District filed for and helped veterans and eligible dependents be awarded over \$440,000 in VA payments in the district for this year alone. Overall the district has over \$3,040,000 in VA awards flowing into our towns on a monthly basis.

Our office has conducted a thorough review of all MGL CH 115 cases in our district. The net result is a large reduction in monies being paid out by the member towns. This was accomplished by helping clients file for alternative sources of income, and revalidating clients' current situations to ensure eligibility.

For the coming year we will continue to assist veterans, attend more outreach events, and educate both the public and the member towns officials.

Respectfully submitted,

**Timothy Niejadlik, Director**  
**Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District**

## BOARD OF HEALTH

We are continuing to make improvements at the Town Recycling Center and Compactor. We accept garbage during our open hours only, which are Saturday 9-noon, Sunday 4-6 p.m., Wednesday 6-7 p.m. We are now accepting bulky plastic items, styrofoam, and pellet bags. In addition, we can also take bicycles for recycling. We have

recently made some changes to the fee schedule to cover the town expenses for removal better. See Allan there for a new list.

We inspected all food establishments, issued permits for wells, septic system repairs, and new septic systems. We also issue permits for septic installers and pumping companies. We responded to several requests for inspections and complaints as required.

The Board of Health is responsible for having the Plainfield Pond beach water tested weekly during the swimming season, monitoring the results, and forwarding those reports to the state. We also order and pay for the porta john there.

Jack Nelson attends most of our meetings and helps to keep us informed and working smoothly with HRMC. He has been a great asset to us again this year.

The Board of Health meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ellen Dupont, Chair**  
**Gale Bulissa, David Crowel**

## COUNCIL ON AGING

The Plainfield Council on Aging has continued offering the preventative health care practices of the monthly blood pressure and the annual flu clinic. We added a bi-monthly foot care clinic too.

In January and February, The COA usually serves only one luncheon a month. Since the winter months are the ones most of the seniors are homebound, we tried to schedule an additional luncheon for each month. We had to cancel two luncheons. The luncheons are still our most popular event, but, there have been a few speakers and entertainers added to the mix.

The monthly COA newsletter has helped getting information out to our senior community and the purchase of new chairs has helped them to sit comfortably. Transportation has been and is an ongoing problem in Plainfield. The COA has worked to make sure it's seniors have been able to attend to luncheons, clinics, grocery shopping and even voting. I am very grateful to the COA board, Phil Alessio, Ruby Goodnoff, Ann Irvine, Ann Kohn, Shirley Todd, and also to the many other helpers who volunteer their time.

Respectfully submitted:

**Deborah Thibault, COA Coordinator**

## WHITING STREET FUND

One might say that the lack of requests this year for help from the Whiting Street Fund bodes well for Plainfield. However, we know that in certain cases temporary financial help may have alleviated certain hardships. We look forward to hearing from those in need or from someone knowing of a neighbor in need.

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert Persing, Chair**  
**David Alvord, Ellen Baer**

Michael Lumsden





Pleun Bouricius

Judy Williams in character reading at the Historical Society Fundraising Dinner.

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2016 marked the installation of 4 signs identifying the entrances to Plainfield's National Register Historic District. This past fall in conjunction with the Plainfield Historical Society, the Plainfield Historical Commission hosted a well attended walk from the Shaw-Hudson House that highlighted the central part of the district.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dario Coletta**, Chair

## CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Plainfield Cultural Council met during 2015 to discuss and implement two tasks: The annual Mass Cultural Council grant cycle funding for 2016 and the 2015 annual ArtsFeast Exhibit. The council received \$4400.00 from the Commonwealth, a \$100.00 increase from last year's funding. The council received 36 grant applications for the 2016 funding cycle. The council met in November and voted to award \$4650 to 24 individuals and organizations. The \$4650.00 included the \$4400.00 from the Commonwealth for this 2016 grant cycle and \$250.00 from a 2014 grant recipient who waived a grant.

There were many worthwhile grant applications to consider and we supported projects that provided the most benefit for our community. Funding was awarded to several area theatre groups including Ashfield Community Theatre and Hilltown Youth Theatre, The Plainfield Congregational Church for it's Concerts at 7 series, music for the Volunteer Firefighter's Association's barbecue, Hilltown Choral Society, Maureen Shea's Grasshoppas in the Park, several school field trips and "Abenaki Stories" with Jennifer Lee and Our Tribal Neighbors to name a few.

The ArtsFeast exhibit was held during the Volunteer Firefighter's barbecue and was a great success. Thanks to Denise Sessions and the Plainfield Library the Meeting and Greeting room at the Library was full of folks enjoying the work of many locals artists. There were 19 artists displaying and selling their work. Plainfield residents are encouraged to contact any member of the Council if interested in participating in next year's ArtsFeast. New officers were elected within the Council in Sept 2015. Sarah Stull as Chair, June Persing as Treasurer and Rebecca Coletta as Secretary. The Council thanks Erik Burcoff, Peri Kelly (Secretary 2012-2015) and Elaine Holder (Chair from 2011-2015) for serving on the Cultural Council for the past 6 years. We welcomed several new members: Lina Bernstein, Allen Irvine, Michal Lumsden and Susi Westwood.

The Plainfield Cultural Council looks forward to supporting arts and cultural programs for the town of Plainfield in the coming year. For more information about Local Cultural Councils and the Mass Cultural Council contact a Council member or visit [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Stull, Chairperson**

**Rebecca Coletta, Secretary**

**June Persing, Treasurer**

**Lina Bernstein, Lynda Christie, Dario Coletta,**

**Allen Irvine, Michal Lumsden, Susi Westwood**

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Each town and city in Massachusetts has a Conservation Commission, which is charged with protecting the town's wetlands resources under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (1972) (General Law Chapter 131, Section 40). This law ([www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep)) prohibits the removal, dredging, filling or altering of wetlands without a permit. Residents planning construction or alteration on their property should contact a member of the Plainfield Conservation Commission for a Request for Determination (RDA) to determine if their property falls under our jurisdiction. We will inspect your property and issue a positive or negative determination. A negative determination which implies there is no negative impact, states that the area/work does not fall under our jurisdiction, approves resource area boundaries, or approves alternative analysis. Under some negative determinations the project may go forward but certain conditions might apply. A positive determination indicates that the area/work does fall under the jurisdiction of the Act and therefore a Notice of Intent must be completed and submitted to the Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection. The four members of the Plainfield Conservation Commission work with property owners to insure that all interests are addressed.

The Plainfield Conservation Commission's public meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Commission's usual business includes reviewing applications for building permits and forest cutting plans in order to ensure compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act (1972) and the more recent Rivers Protection Act (1996). Members of the Commission also make site visits to help property owners identify possible



resource areas and buffer zones. The Commission also serves an educational role for the community. Members attend workshops on conservation issues and can in turn serve to raise community awareness of Plainfield's rich natural history and needs.

During 2016 the Plainfield Conservation Commission:

Made Site Visits to:

- 118 South Central St., Sue Warner requested permission to build a ground-mounted solar array, no wetland issues
- Vacant lot east of 330 Main St., Lena Bernstein, to develop hiking paths and a bird sanctuary, would need to hire a wetland consultant
- 234 West St., Ed Burnham, concerned about impact to wetlands and vernal pools from Kinder Morgan's pipeline.
- Culverts were inspected on Prospect and Gloyd Streets, 4-27-16, Mert Taylor (Highway Superintendent), Tim Chorey (Stream Continuity Specialist, Dept of Fish and Game) and Alice, Erik, Jack, & Judy.
- 118 Gloyd St., Jason Dyer, replace porch.
- 151 South St., David Martin, Swift River Addiction Campus, 6-28-16, paving of existing driveway and parking areas.
- 53 South Union St., Kimberly Longey, 7-14-16
- 33 Stetson Ave., Judith Hanson & Pamela Wayne, 10-11-16
- 98 North St., Kate Nevins, new septic system, 11-3-16
- 269 West St., Justina Harrison, Oct. 2016, replacement of trailer with a new one on same location

Determinations:

- 53 South Union St, Kimberly Longey, RDA for above ground pool, Negative Determination #5
- 33 Stetson Ave., Judith Hanson & Pamela Wayne, RDA for repair of foundation, Negative Determination #3 with conditions
- 98 North St., Kate Nevins, RDA, Negative Determination #4
- Swift River Addiction Campus, RDA negative determination #3 with conditions.

Review of forest cutting plans:

- East side of Central St., submitted by Alan Page, forester; owner James S. Page, referred to Alison Wright, Service Forester

Other Business:

- Erik attended a meeting in Windsor in January regarding the effects on water from blasting of wells.
- Jack submitted a list of Plainfield property owners who have refused permission to Kinder Morgan to survey their property for the proposed pipeline.

The Commission will work with Highway Superintendent, Mert Taylor, Jr. to determine the best places in Plainfield to store snow. Articles from Mark Stinson's newsletter were reviewed.

Endorsed the Town Energy Committee's recommended Solar Overlay District, Option 2.

Emerald Ash Borer Notices were placed on prominent ash trees, 6-9-16 on Grant, South Central, West Main, Mountain & Pleasant Sts.

The Commission voted to support the Swift River Landscape Partnership Project and the co-holding of the Nelson/Sargent property by the Franklin Land Trust and the Town of Plainfield. Plainfield Con Com co-signed with MACC to oppose new natural gas pipeline.

Respectfully submitted:

**Eric Burcroff, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle  
Judith Williams (Chair)**

Hooked Rug created by Stockman on display at Artsfeast during this years Fireman's Barbeque.

## ENERGY COMMITTEE

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stated that in 2016, "Long-term indicators of human-caused climate change, including record carbon dioxide concentrations, and glacier melt, and low sea ice, continued. The WMO will issue consolidated figures on 2016 global temperatures in early 2017. November data confirms WMO's assessment...that 2016 will very likely be the hottest year since records began in the mid 1880s."

For the United States the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said, "2016 was the second hottest year in the U.S...the average temperature in the Lower 48 states was 54.9 degrees Fahrenheit, nearly 3 degrees above the 20<sup>th</sup> Century average...It's the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the United States was warmer than usual."

Against that background the Plainfield Energy Committee (PEC) strove to make steps in the right direction. Through Solarize Plainfield the number of homes with solar photovoltaic systems expanded from 6 to 38 and added 220 kilowatts (kW) of solar capacity in town (an average of 7.1 kW per home), which saves 204 metric tons of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from being dumped into the atmosphere each year or the equivalent of 488,450 passenger car miles.

The official Solarize installer, Direct Energy Solar, reimbursed Plainfield \$5,800 (\$150 for each contract) for energy conservation and efficiency. Ashfield and Buckland, our Solarize partners, graciously divided this sum equally even though they are larger towns and had more contracts signed. In addition our town received \$305 from the unspent Solarize Plainfield marketing account.

Plainfield completed all 5 hurdles toward becoming a Green Community (GC) to apply for an estimated \$136,500 grant for energy efficiency. At the annual town meeting on 7 May 2016 the voters passed a designated-area of town owned land by-right bylaw by over a 2/3s vote. (Williamsburg, Goshen, and Windsor among others used designated town areas to become GCs). On 13

Elaine Holder



September at a Special Town Meeting Plainfield citizens passed a Stretch Code requiring improved efficiency standards for new buildings, another step toward becoming a GC. Separately the town agreed to fuel efficiency for town vehicles, expedited permitting, and the PEC established a baseline of energy use. These 5 actions made it possible for Plainfield to apply for the GC grant on 21 November 2016 with the hope of receiving it sometime in 2017.

If Plainfield wins the grant, the PEC will work with the building committee to make recommendations to the selectboard on how to spend it, and our town would be eligible to apply for competitive GC grants in the future.

The PEC thanks Susan Pearson and Jim Markham for their service on our committee and regrets their departures. But we welcome our newest member, Judy Williams. The PEC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at town hall and would love to have another new member as we have one opening for this exciting and important work.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Tim Walter, Chair**  
**Conrad Liebenow, Vice Chair**  
**Steve Bushway, Secretary**  
**Judy Williams**

## TREE WARDEN

Thanks to the work of the Highway Department, we have compiled a list of nearly 200 roadside trees that need to be removed because they are threatening roads, power lines, or structures due to decay. Trees with 'X's painted on them are slated for removal. The Tree Warden has been working with Eversource and they have cut about 100 trees so far. Their work is saving the town tens of thousands of dollars.

Trees that don't pose a risk to wires, however, are the town's responsibility to take down, and removal must be done by a licensed and insured contractor. With a budget of just \$3,000, we're only able to have a handful cut down each year. We're focusing on those that are the most precarious, and that are on the most highly trafficked roads, since having one fall on a main road would be a big inconvenience for everyone.

If you have a roadside tree that you're concerned about and that hasn't been marked, please contact the Tree Warden, Winton Pitcoff, at 634-5728, or [winton@pitcoff.com](mailto:winton@pitcoff.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
**Winton Pitcoff**

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Three of the Commission members attended the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC) in February. Of most interest were two afternoon educational sessions, one called "What are GMO's," the other on pesticides, focusing on neonicotinoids. Prior to the meeting we had written to the President about our concerns that in each class the single presenter represented only one viewpoint. In the GMO session the sole presenter was to be the regional representative of Monsanto, the primary producer of GMO seeds and the accompanying pesticide containing glyphosates. The President subsequently invited another speaker who explained the genetic process used to insert a foreign gene into the DNA of an organism. This person did not address our concern about explaining the possible negative effects of glyphosates on the health of people and the environment as a whole. The other session was devoted to presenting information to pesticide applicators for credits toward their applicator's license and did not address any of the documented dangers of neonicotinoids to

populations of pollinators, bees and bumblebees in particular. Among the attendees from other towns were several who were also disturbed by these omissions.

Most of our efforts this year were devoted to contacting these Ag. Comms. who would have liked to see more balanced presentations at the MAAC Annual Meeting so that the large number of state farmers and consumers who are interested in raising and purchasing pesticide free foods and plants could get objective information. Unfortunately the approach of MAAC has tended to discourage Ag. Comms. such as ours which represent groups wanting and using a variety of agricultural practices from attending their meetings. We will continue to try to address these issues both locally and regionally with ideas for educational programs for our community in 2017. We welcome your suggestions about agricultural topics which concern you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Manning-Hanchett, Chair

## THE BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The past year was a transition year for the Plainfield Building Committee as members resigned from the committee and new members joined. Chairman Claude DuPont oversaw the committee efforts during this year including important repair and upgrades of two town properties.

The town's salt shed roof repaired after years of needed work was finally completed. The roof repair cost over \$15,000 and is now updated to give our highway department many years of use.

A new building fire alarm system was installed at the Highway Garage and Police Station. These systems are critical to the all town building and were missing from these two structures. All five town buildings are now protected.

The big news for 2016 regarding our town buildings was the awarding of a \$137K Green Community Designation Grant to Plainfield. We congratulate the Energy Committee for their efforts in acquiring this grant for the town. We will be working closely with the Energy Committee in 2017 to take advantage of this funding and put it to use in our town properties in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Claude DuPont, Chairman**  
**Jeff Prost, Phil Sargenski, David Alvord**

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board is responsible for hearing and acting upon requests for special permits and variances in accordance with the Town of Plainfield's Zoning By-law.

The primary accomplishment of 2016 was the application for the reuse of the Swift River Academy. Addiction Campuses, based in Tennessee, purchased the property for use as a specialized residential addiction treatment center which opened in September.

Meetings were held monthly on the second Wednesday. Members were involved in discussions relative to matters brought forth at the Annual and Special Town meetings, particularly the Solar Array Installation By-law proposal. The Board also worked on improving the information provided to applicants about the permitting process and made plans to seek technical assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission regarding best practices and statutory updates.

During 2016, Bob Mellstrom and Dudley Williams resigned. The current members would like to thank them for their many years of dedicated service. Peg Keller, formerly an alternate member was appointed to a permanent position and Laurie Israel joined the Board as a permanent member. Joan Wattman continued in her posi-

tion as a permanent member. Ann Irvine was appointed to the vacant alternate position and Sandra Morann continues to serve as an alternate member.

The Board would like to encourage residents to carefully review the Zoning By-law prior to enacting any changes in residential or business uses and any proposed building construction. The Board members, as well as the Building Inspector are available to provide assistance. Meeting agendas are posted 48 hours in advance and minutes will be posted on the new Town website.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Peg Keller, Chair**  
**Joan Wattman**  
**Laurie Israel**

## BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Building Inspection Department ensures that all new construction, alterations, renovations, repairs and demolitions are in conformance with 780 CMR, the Massachusetts State Building Code, Massachusetts General Laws, Town of Plainfield Zoning By-Laws and all other applicable Codes and Statutes enforced by the Building Inspector.

A total of 52 permits were issued for FY 16:

Job Code				
1	New Residential Homes	3	7	Additions and Alterations
1A	Foundation only	1		Commercial 0
2	Additions/Alterations- Residential	13	8	Garage Residential 1
3	Accessory Buildings	3	9	Signs 0
4	Pools	0	10	Stoves 2
5	Demolition	0	11	Fences 0
6	Other	1	12	Commercial / New 0
			13	Solar 28

**Total Job Values \$1,737,580.00**

The new, Ninth Edition Massachusetts State Base Code (Commercial Code) which is based on the 2015 **International Building Code** (IBC) will be implemented by the State sometime in 2017 as well as the Massachusetts Residential One and Two Family Building Code which is based on the 2015 **International Residential Code** (IRC) . Implementation of this code was delayed from its January 1, 2017 take off date due to pending legislation.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectman for there appointment to this position and all of the departments for their cooperation and dedication of service. I again look forward to working with the citizens of Plainfield and assisting them in their endeavors to make this an enjoyable community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Gerald W Garner**  
**Building Commissioner / Inspector of Buildings**

Special thanks to  
Pleun Bouricius,, Elaine Holder, Conrad Liebenow  
Michael Lumsden and Sandra Powers  
for contributing their photographs for this town report.

Sandy Powers

## ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Garage	1
New Dwelling	3
Commercial Rough-in	0
Final Inspections	30
Additions	2
Furnaces	1
Pools	1
Solar	27
Residential Rough-in	3
Services 100 Amp.	4
Services 150 Amp.	0
Services 200 Amp.	3
Services 400 Amp.	0
Services 600 Amp.	0
Services 800 Amp.	0
Services 1200 Amp.	0
Services Reconnect on Old	1
Services Temporary	1
Renovations	7
FA Systems	3

### Miscellaneous Inspections

Board of Health	0
Building Inspector	0
Complaints	0
Fires	0
Insurance Companies	0
Loan Agencies	2
Power Company	4
State Inspectors Office	0
State Police	0
State Police Fire Marshal	0
<b>Inspections Made</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Permits Granted</b>	<b>34</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
**DB Rhinemiller**  
**Chief Electrical Inspector**





## HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns with volunteer local boards attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY16 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); Paul Wetzel, Vice Chair (Williamsburg); and, Tom Martin, Treasurer (Westhampton).

The HRMC has been helping hilltown member-communities manage all aspects of their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal bid administration, recycling, hazardous waste, DEP compliance monitoring and technical assistance, and sustainability services. In FY16 those services included:

- Liaison between Towns and MassDEP on compliance matters.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, and Freon removal from appliances. Oversight of the Call2Recycle re-chargeable battery collection service. Additionally, the Town of Westhampton became a regional Thermostat Recycling Center (TRC) for HRMC community transfer stations. Both the Call2Recycle Battery Program and the TRC programs are cost-free that save the member-Towns the expense of including these items in their universal waste recycling.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including informal HRMC site visits as well as the formal, annual DEP 3rd Party Inspection and Reporting.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including grant writing and reporting.

In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the

Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinators; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to serve as a liaison to the DEP on transfer station operations and compliance related issues.

In FY16, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Small-Scale Initiative Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). All ten HRMC member-towns received a small-scale grant award of \$500. In addition, eight HRMC Towns were the recipients of additional grants under the Recycling Dividends Program. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 18,200.00 in grant funding - an increase of \$10,900.00 over the previous year. Grant applications for FY17 were submitted in June for a total of more than \$24,200 in funding requests.

The HRMC has an annual assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY16, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$39,487.56. The Assessments are intended to offset base operating expenses. Recycling program/collection costs (other than MRF) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations, and program operations. In FY16, the HRMC acquired two new MRF containers in an effort to begin to remove containers from the HRMC fleet that were no longer road-worthy.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 1,000.79 tons of recyclable materials (paper, and bottles/cans) to the Springfield MRF. In addition, the Town of Plainfield diverted bulky rigid plastics; the Towns of Cummington, Plainfield, Westhampton and Williamsburg commenced diversion of EPS (Styrofoam); and, the Towns of Huntington and Williamsburg began diverting clean pellet bags. The Town of Williamsburg continued to serve as the HRMC regional mattress recycling facility. The Town of Westhampton served as the host-site for the HRMC's annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.

The HRMC looks forward to continuing to assist the member Towns during the upcoming year. If you have questions about HRMC programs, call us at 413-685-5498 or by email at [hrcm@hrcm-ma.org](mailto:hrcm@hrcm-ma.org).

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator**



DJ Clary and friends strut their stuff at the Memorial Day Parade,

Sandy Powers



## HILLTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The member Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY16 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); Paul Wetzels, Vice Chair (Williamsburg); and, Tom Martin, Treasurer (Westhampton).

The HRMC has been helping hilltown member-communities manage all aspects of their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal bid administration, recycling, hazardous waste, DEP compliance monitoring and technical assistance, and sustainability services. In FY16 those services included:

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- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, and Freon removal from appliances. Oversight of the Call2Recycle re-chargeable battery collection service. Additionally, the Town of Westhampton became a regional Thermostat Recycling Center (TRC) for HRMC community transfer stations. Both the Call2Recycle Battery Program and the TRC programs are cost-free that save the member-Towns the expense of including these items in their universal waste recycling.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including informal HRMC site visits as well as the formal, annual DEP 3rd Party Inspection and Reporting.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including grant writing and reporting.

In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinators; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to serve as a liaison to the DEP on transfer station operations and compliance related issues.

In FY16, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Small-Scale Initiative Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). All ten HRMC member-towns received a small-scale grant award of \$500. In addition, eight HRMC Towns were the recipients of additional grants under the Recycling Dividends Program. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 18,200.00 in grant funding - an increase of \$10,900.00 over the previous year. Grant applications for FY17 were submitted in June for a total of more than \$24,200 in funding requests. The HRMC has an annual assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY16, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$39,487.56. The Assessments are intended to offset base operating expenses. Recycling program/collection costs (other than MRF) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations, and program operations. In FY16, the HRMC acquired two new MRF containers in an effort to begin to remove containers from the HRMC fleet that were no longer road-worthy.

The HRMC looks forward to continuing to assist the member Towns during the upcoming year. If you have questions about HRMC programs, call us at 413-685-5498 or by email at [hrcm@hrcm-ma.org](mailto:hrcm@hrcm-ma.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
**Kathleen A. Casey**  
**HRMC Administrator**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*"Fiscal Year 2016 was a year of challenges and triumph. While our entrepreneurial spirit was put to the test, we rallied together to make 2016 the most financially successful year in the history of the HCOG. With new programs and renewed focus, we are ready to tackle the challenges ahead and continue to serve our constituents and keep more money in our local economy."*

—Todd Ford, Executive Director

**Council Overview** - The Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) is a collective body made up of representatives from 15 Hampshire County towns. HCOG has two key focuses: to improve life in Hampshire County, and to provide our small towns with the advantage of economies of scale typically available only to larger cities. We accomplish these goals by promoting the local economy, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and aggregating the buying power of our communities. HCOG is not funded primarily by grants or taxes, but rather by fee-for-service programs that generate revenue sufficient to support its operating costs. Modest membership fees are also collected from member communities.

The mission of the Hampshire Council of Governments is to offer a robust suite of programs and services that combine the best practices of government and the private sector in support of municipalities, non-profits, and local businesses. Providing these services regionally saves participating entities the cost of an added employee and associated benefits to perform the same services and ensures that the appropriate MA laws are adhered to.

**2016—Challenges: Growth!** - HCOG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. There was a continuation of high value provided as dues remained low. In fiscal year 2016 (FY16), the total estimated value secured for member towns was \$3,823,201. During the same period, member towns paid a collective \$23,083.99 in dues to HCOG.

### OUR PROGRAMS:

**Hampshire Power**-Hampshire Power provides fixed rate electricity supply to businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities across the Commonwealth. It is the only nonprofit energy supplier in Massachusetts. Hampshire Power helps towns, homeowners, and businesses stabilize the cost of energy while keeping energy dollars in the local economy.

**Hampshire Solar** - Hampshire Solar is a partnership between the HCOG and Nexamp's Community Solar program to offer a simple way to subscribe to a share of a community solar farm in Massachusetts.

### Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) Brokering

The solar market in Massachusetts has an incentive program to encourage the adoption of solar. SRECs are generated by solar owners and given values dictated by the market. For each 1,000kWh of electricity generated from a solar array, one (1) SREC is created. These SRECs are bought by electric utilities and suppliers to meet Renewable Portfolio Standards.

**Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative** - For 35 years, the Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative has coordinated and administered a formal bidding process on behalf of municipalities, school districts, and non-profit entities throughout Massachusetts.

**Hampshire Web** - Hampshire Web is a regional bid on municipal web site design and implementation.

**Hampshire I.T.** - Hampshire I.T. offers award-winning I.T. services at

highly competitive rates provided by Paragus I.T. of Hadley. Hampshire I.T. also provides free detailed I.T. assessments to all communities in western Massachusetts.

### RSVP of Hampshire and Franklin Counties

RSVP of Hampshire & Franklin Counties links volunteers age 55+ with opportunities to serve in our community. RSVP provides expert matching services for interested volunteers, helping them to find long term satisfaction in their volunteer roles. RSVP staff also share their volunteer management knowledge through workshops, presentations, and one-on-one mentorship of volunteer managers, increasing the region's capacity to support volunteer programs. Each year, RSVP works with more than 650 volunteers and 50 agencies to fill volunteer needs and make a measurable difference in Western Massachusetts.

**Hampshire County Group Insurance** - The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) is a self-insured joint purchase Trust that provides medical insurance to 69 municipal groups in Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Worcester County. HCGIT currently covers approximately 11,000 active employees, dependents, and retirees. It is the second largest (based on the number of municipal groups) joint purchase Trust in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The HCGIT plan rates have consistently been significantly below state plan rates with the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) while offering significantly better benefits to its subscribers. For FY16, the HCGIT plan rates offered an overall savings to its subscribers of \$7.5 million when compared to the most popular State GIC plan.

### Regional Accounting

#### Tobacco Free Community Partnership

The Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco Free Community Partnership (TFCP), servicing all 44 towns in both counties, is funded by the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The program supports communities' efforts to help people quit using tobacco, prevent youth from starting, and protect everyone from secondhand smoke. In addition to the many services it offers to local communities, the TFCP also supports The 84, a statewide youth movement for high school-aged youth who want to take a stand against the tobacco industry.

### Plainfield

Plainfield is represented by Councilor Margaret Keller. The Town saved \$29,585.64 through HCOG services in FY16. The Town used the following services for total savings: Purchasing Cooperative, Tobacco Free Partnership, Group Insurance Trust. Unused services included Grant Administration, Hampshire Power, Hampshire Solar, Hampshire I.T., Hampshire Web, RSVP, Regional Accounting. Your town can lower its electricity bill by 15% by participating in Hampshire Solar's net-metering program.



Michael Lumsden

## HIGHLAND AMBULANCE EMS

**Operations.** Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. Highland also provides primary back-up in the town of Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntingdon. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6 AM until midnight seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 AM time period, Highland EMT's are assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland's active roster as of June 30, 2016 consisted of 36 members including 19 Paramedics and 17 EMT's. Dr. Raymond Conway, our long term Medical Director, retired and is replaced by Dr. Peter Morse, MD.

**Mission.** The mission of Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc. is to provide the full range of emergency medical services to the member communities. These services include:

- Providing training and certification testing for all first responders
- Providing mandatory inoculations for all first responders
- Running blood pressure clinics for residents of the six towns
- Developing and practicing emergency response plans with the schools and camps in the member towns
- Conducting health and safety classes for the schools
- Working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Homeland Security to develop emergency response plans for the member towns
- Providing mutual aid and paramedic intercept services to the neighboring communities
- Providing transport services
- Providing standby service for major emergency situations, e.g. house fire
- Providing standby service for major community events such as the Chesterfield Parade, the Ashfield Fall Festival and the Cummington Fair
- Responding to all 911 calls that may require emergency medical services

**Emergency Responses.** During FY 2016 Highland responded to 652 emergency calls of which 150 were no service. These are broken down by Town as follows:

Ashfield	118	Chesterfield	101	Cummington	78
Goshen	75	Plainfield	60	Williamsburg	178
Other	42				

Out of these responses, 341 required advanced life support (ALS) services.

**Training.** The following special training events were held:

- CPR trainings for Emergency Service Personnel, Police, & firefighters.
- New National (NCCCR) EMT recertification classes for area EMTs.
- Medical Management Classes.
- ALS/BLS interface classes for area EMTs.
- Paramedic transition class to conform to National Core Curriculum.
- Patient lifting and moving class for Ashfield fire personnel.
- Basic EMT refresher courses.
- Paramedic refresher courses.

**Community Involvement.** Highland provided support to our communities including:

- Ambulance Coverage for Community events including the Chesterfield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, the Cummington Fair, the Ashfield Fall Festival, Hilltown Junior Olympics, the Ashfield Klondike Fair.
- Evacuation drill at the Sanderson Academy in Ashfield
- Lock down drill at the Anne T. Dunphy School in Williamsburg and the New Hingham Elementary School in Chesterfield.



<b>Operating Expenses in FY 2016</b>	\$522,235.01
<b>Cash On Hand June 30, 2016</b>	
Building Fund	\$ 79,228.89
Cash Operating Account	\$ 10,730.19
Cash Payroll Account	\$ 5,000.00
Ambulance Fund	\$150,684.46
Memorial Fund	\$ 24,710.80
Dresser Fund	\$ 3,702.83
Cap Reserve	\$ 7,022.78
Total Checking/Savings	\$281,079.95

**Grants.** \$25,400 from the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grants for the purchase of two automated CPR devices called LUCAS IIs. They can help improve the chance of survival for cardiac arrest patients. \$1,200 from Florence Savings Bank towards the construction of our new facility.

**Building Project.** During this fiscal year, Highland Ambulance initiated the building of our permanent facility for its operations. From its very beginning, it was clear that Highland Ambulance was “borrowing” the Goshen Fire House and would need to eventually establish itself elsewhere. Highland Ambulance chose a lot at 12 Williams Drive in

Goshen for its facility. At the end of the Fiscal Year, the project was nearing completion and a dedication/open house was scheduled for July 17th. The Board of Directors decided to dedicate the building to the memory of our long-term president of the Board, Christopher (Kit) Smith. Anticipated costs of the entire project will be in the range of \$800,000 with a mortgage loan for up to \$600,000 from Greenfield Savings Bank. The Board and staff are deeply appreciative for all the dollar donations and in-kind services we received over the year to make possible the construction of our new facility.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Highland Ambulance Board of Directors**

<b>Ashfield</b>	<b>Patricia Thayer</b>
<b>Plainfield</b>	<b>Edward Morann</b>
<b>Chesterfield</b>	<b>Spencer Timm</b>
<b>Williamsburg</b>	<b>Leslie Smith</b>
<b>Cummington</b>	<b>Amanda Savoie</b>
<b>Goshen</b>	<b>Donald Boisvert</b>
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Cassandra Morrey</b>
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Bernard Forgea</b>
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Douglas Mollison</b>



Michael Lumsden





The Guyette Farm barn  
deconstructed to be recon-  
structed elsewhere.

The Guyette Farm is one of  
the properties of  
The Franklin Trust.

Photos by Conrad Liebenow

