

# TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON

## FY2020 Annual Report



Photo by Mark Pruhenski





## IN MEMORIAM

During the year, we were saddened by the passing of the following former Town Officials during the Fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) and dedicate this Annual Report to their memory:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ❖ Janet M. Poor<br>Teacher<br>July 14, 2019                                       | ❖ Leo “Locke” Larkin<br>Great Barrington Health Inspector<br>January 13, 2020 |
| ❖ Edward T. Morehouse Sr.<br>Selectman (1982-2002)<br>August 13, 2019             | ❖ Storrs F. Olds<br>Teacher<br>February 3, 2020                               |
| ❖ Donald J. Cook<br>Teacher<br>November 10, 2019                                  | ❖ Phyllis A. Chiera<br>School Bus Driver<br>March 11, 2020                    |
| ❖ Donald Kittridge Moulthrop<br>GB Historical Society Member<br>November 12, 2019 | ❖ Vera C. Forte<br>Residential School Counselor<br>May 13, 2020               |
| ❖ Selma A. Hawkins<br>Librarian<br>December 2, 2019                               | ❖ Anne K. Bourquard<br>Librarian<br>June 9, 2020                              |
| ❖ Judith M. Kemp<br>School Bus Driver<br>December 16, 2019                        | ❖ Edward H. Kollmer<br>Teacher<br>June 11, 2020                               |



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## **CURRENT UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**

### **Governor Charlie Baker**

[www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-the-governor](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-the-governor)

Massachusetts State House  
Office of Governor  
24 Beacon Street, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Office: 888-870-7770

Western Mass Office  
State Office Building  
436 Dwight Street  
Suite 300  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-784-1200

Office of Governor  
444 N. Capitol Street  
Suite 208  
Washington, DC 20001

202-624-3616

### **U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**

[www.warren.senate.gov](http://www.warren.senate.gov)

309 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Office: 202-224-4543

Springfield Federal Bldg.  
1550 Main Street Suite 406  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-788-2690

2400 JFK Fed Bldg.  
15 New Sudbury Street  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-565-3170

### **U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey**

[www.markey.senate.gov](http://www.markey.senate.gov)

255 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Office: 202-224-2742

Springfield Federal Bldg.  
1550 Main Street 4<sup>th</sup> FL  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-785-4610

975 JFK Fed Bldg.  
15 New Sudbury Street  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-565-8519

### **U. S. Representative Richard Neal**

[www.neal.house.gov](http://www.neal.house.gov)

372 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Office: 202-225-5601

300 State Street Suite 200  
Springfield, MA 01105  
413-785-0325

78 Center Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
413-442-0946

### **State Senator Adam Hinds**

Email: [Adam.Hinds@masenate.gov](mailto:Adam.Hinds@masenate.gov)

24 Beacon Street, Room 109-E  
Boston, MA 02133  
Office: 617-722-1625

100 North Street Suite 410  
Pittsfield, MA 01105  
Office: 413-344-4561

### **State Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli**

Email: [Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov](mailto:Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov)

24 Beacon Street, Room 473 F  
Boston, MA 02133  
Office: 617-722-2210

Lenox Town Hall  
PO Box 2228  
Lenox MA 01240  
413-637-0631



## **FACTS ABOUT GREAT BARRINGTON**

Settled	1726
Incorporated	1761
Location	Southwest Corner of Massachusetts
Population	6,502 (Annual Town Census)
Legal Voters	4,774
Form of Government	Selectboard/Town Manager
	Open Town Meeting
Tax Rate	\$15.99 Fiscal 2021
Public Schools	Berkshire Hills Regional School District
Police	Chief, Two Sergeants Fourteen Patrol Officers
Town Highways	91.01 Miles, 162 Streets
Public Libraries	Mason Public Library, Great Barrington Ramsdell Public Library, Housatonic
State Forests	7,264 Acres
Altitude	721 Feet at Railroad Station
Area	45.86 Square Miles
Web Site	<a href="http://www.townofgb.org">www.townofgb.org</a>
Annual Town Meeting	June 7, 2021 & June 10, 2021
Annual Town Election	May 11, 2021

## CURRENT ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Selectboard

Stephen Bannon	Term Expires 2022
Edward Abrahams	Term Expires 2023
William Cooke	Term Expires 2021
Kate Burke	Term Expires 2021
Leigh Davis	Term Expires 2022

### Great Barrington Housing Authority

James Mercer	Term Expires 2023
John Grogan	Term Expires 2021
Eileen Mooney	Term Expires 2024
Marie Y. Ryan	Term Expires 2021
VACANCY	Term Expires 2025

### Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee

(Great Barrington Representatives)

Diane Singer	Term Expires 2024
Richard Dohoney	Term Expires 2024
Anne Hutchinson	Term Expires 2024
Stephen C. Bannon	Term Expires 2022
William Fields	Term Expires 2022

### Library Trustees

Christopher Tucci	Term Expires 2023
Lauren E. Clark	Term Expires 2022
Margaret Heilbrun	Term Expires 2023
Kathleen Plungis	Term Expires 2021
G. Patrick Hollenbeck	Term Expires 2021
Jane Stanhope	Term Expires 2022

### Board of Health

Michael Lanoue	Term Expires 2022
Dr. Ruby Chang	Term Expires 2023
Peter Stanton	Term Expires 2021

### Moderator

Michael Wise	Term Expires 2021
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### Constables

Walter F. Atwood, III	Term Expires 2021
John Broderick, Jr.	Term Expires 2021

### Planning Board

Brandee K. Nelson	Term Expires 2022
Jeremy K. Higa	Term Expires 2022
Malcom Fick	Term Expires 2023
Jonathan Hankin	Term Expires 2023
Pedro Rafael Pachano	Term Expires 2021

### Finance Committee

Thomas Blauvelt	Term Expires 2022
Meredith O'Conner	Term Expires 2022
Anne O'Dwyer	Term Expires 2023
Michelle Loubert	Term Expires 2021
Eugene W. Curletti	Term Expires 2021

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Carolyn Ivory	Term Expires 2022
Ron Majdalany	Term Expires 2023
Michael Wise	Term Expires 2023
Madonna Meagher	Term Expires 2021
Stephen McAlister	Term Expires 2021



## **CURRENT APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

### **Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board**

Fred Clark	Term Expires 2021
William Cooke	Term Expires 2021
Garfield Reed	Term Expires 2021
John Katz	Term Expires 2021
Jonathan Hankin	Term Expires 2020
Samantha Homeyer	Term Expires 2020
Lara Yaple	Term Expires 2022

### **Agricultural Commission**

Vivian Orlowski	Term Expires 2022
Krysia Kurzyca	Term Expires 2023
VACANCY	Term Expires 2021
VACANCY	Term Expires 2022
VACANCY	Term Expires 2021

### **Animal Control Officer**

Shepley W. Evans	Term Indefinite
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### **Animal Inspector**

Shepley W. Evans	Term Indefinite
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### **Assessor, Principal**

VACANCY	Term Indefinite
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### **Board of Assessors**

VACANCY	Term Indefinite
John Katz	Term Expires 2022
Bruce Firger	Term Expires 2023

### **Board of Registrars**

Jennifer L. Messina	Term Indefinite
Marie Y. Ryan	Term Expires 2023
Linda A. Coons	Term Expires 2022
Ellen Smith	Term Expires 2021

### **Cemetery Commissioners**

Marilyn Bisiewicz	Term Expires 2023
Walter F. Atwood, III	Term Expires 2023

Stephen Bannon	Term Expires 2021
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Edward Abrahams	Term Expires 2021
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### **Chief Procurement Officer**

Mark Pruhenski	Term Indefinite
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### **Commission on Disability**

Richard Flach	Term Expires 2022
Jeanne Bachetti	Term Expires 2021
G. Patrick Hollenbeck	Term Expires 2021
Denise Flynn	Term Expires 2023
Trevor Cobb	Term Expires 2023

### **Community Preservation Committee**

Thomas Blauvelt	Term Expires 2022
Jeremy Higa	Term Expires 2022
Donald Howe	Term Expires 2022
Patricia Sharpe	Term Expires 2022
Karen Smith	Term Expires 2023
Leigh Davis	Term Expires 2021
James Mercer	Term Expires 2023
Martha Fick	Term Expires 2022
Kate VanOlst	Term Expires 2023

### **Conservation Commission**

Andrew Mankin	Term Expires 2022
David Shanahan	Term Expires 2022
Michael Lanoue	Term Expires 2023
Kate VanOlst	Term Expires 2021
Andrew Didio	Term Expires 2022
Lisa Bozzuto	Term Expires 2021
VACANCY	Term Expires 2023

### **Conservation Commission Agent**

Shepley W. Evans	Term Indefinite
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### **Council on Aging**

Patricia Kinne	Term Expires 2022
Maureen Avery	Term Expires 2022

Jeanne Holcolmb	Term Expires 2023
Barbara Bailly	Term Expires 2021
Eileen Gaarn	Term Expires 2022
Susan Hipwell Morris	Term Expires 2021
Sandra Larkin	Term Expires 2021
Amy Rutstein	Term Expires 2021
David Rutstein	Term Expires 2021

#### Council on Aging, Director

Polly Mann Salenovich	Term Indefinite
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#### Cultural Council

Haley Barbieri	Term Expires 2022
Patrick Barrett	Term Expires 2021
Tate Coleman	Term Expires 2021
Ellen Shanahan	Term Expires 2021
Amy Taylor	Term Expires 2021
VACANCY	Term Expires 2022
VACANCY	Term Expires 2021
VACANCY	Term Expires 2021

#### Design Advisory Committee

Edwin May	Ex-Officio
Pedro Rafael Pachano	Term Expires 2021
James Mercer	Term Expires 2022
Stephen Dietemann	Term Expires 2022
Jonathan Hankin	Term Expires 2022
Holly Hamer	Term Expires 2023
Rees Shad	Term Expires 2024
Jennifer Clark	Term Expires 2023

#### Emergency Management Director

Paul Storti	Term Indefinite
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#### Fence Viewers

Kurt Barbieri	Term Expires 2021
Bernard Drew	Term Expires 2021

#### Finance Director

Susan Carmel	Term Indefinite
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#### Fire Department

Charles Burger, Chief	Term Indefinite
Robert Hammer Jr.,	Deputy Chief
Steven Hall	Deputy Chief
James Mead	House Captain
Christopher Laramée,	Lieutenant
Darrell Marks	Lieutenant
Joshua A. Seile,	House Captain
Justin Bona	Lieutenant
Robert Gaughran	Training Captain
Joseph Bozza	Term Indefinite
Iovan deRis	Term Indefinite
Trevor deRis	Term Indefinite
Richard Harrington III	Term Indefinite
George Houghtlin	Term Indefinite
Kevin Learnard	Term Indefinite
Christopher Lovett	Term Indefinite
Sean McMahon	Term Indefinite
Adam Mead	Term Indefinite
Brian Mead	Term Indefinite
Justin Osak	Term Indefinite
Matthew Pevzner	Term Indefinite
Louis Stark	Term Indefinite
Kayne Wellauer	Term Indefinite
John Woodard	Term Indefinite
Kevin Norton	Term Indefinite

#### Police Officers

Paul Storti, Chief	Term Indefinite
Adam J. Carlotto, Sergeant	Term Indefinite
Kristopher M. Balestro	Term Indefinite
James Bragdon	Term Indefinite
Elias Casey	Term Indefinite
Jonathan Finnerty	Term Indefinite
Brandon Hammer	Term Indefinite
Andreas Huertas	Term Indefinite
Bradley Lupiani	Term Indefinite
Joseph O'Brien	Term Indefinite

Christopher Peebles	Term Indefinite
Chad Shimmon	Term Indefinite
Samuel Stolz	Term Indefinite
Connor Storti	Term Indefinite
Timothy Ullrich	Term Indefinite
Victor Zucco	Term Indefinite

Police Officers, Reserve

Brian Arnold	Term Indefinite
Olivia Cobb	Term Indefinite
Juan Guete	Term Indefinite
Mitchell Hamilton	Term Indefinite

Police Officers, Special

Paul Harvey	Term Indefinite
Timothy Roy	Term Indefinite
Craig Scott	Term Indefinite
Robert Ullrich	Term Indefinite

Regional Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Tate Coleman	Term Expires 2021
Rene Wood	Term Expires 2021
Bill Cooke	Term Expires 2021
Garfield Reed	Term Expires 2021
Marybeth Mitts	Term Expires 2021
Pat Konecky	Term Expires 2021
Jamie Minacci	Term Expires 2021
Deborah Phillips	Term Expires 2021
Ilene Marcus	Term Expires 2023
William Barth	Term Expires 2022
VACANCY	Term Expires 2021

Sanitary Inspector

Ned Saviski	Term Indefinite
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Selectboard & Plannin Housing Subcommittee

Kate Burke	William Cooke
Jonathan Hankin	Pedro Rafael Pachano

Sign Officer

Edwin May	Term Indefinite
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Strategic Sustainability & Livability Committee

Natalie Narotzy	Jovanina Pagano
Jesse Carter	Mark Phillips
Aretha Whitehead	

Town Clerk

Jennifer L. Messina	Term Indefinite
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Town Collector

Karen Fink	Term Indefinite
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Town Counsel

Kopelman & Paige
Valerio, Dominello & Hillman

Town Manager

Mark Pruhenski	Term Indefinite
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Town Treasurer

Karen Fink	Term Indefinite
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Tree Committee

Marcia Stamell	Term Expires 2022
Holly Hamer	Term Expires 2022
Hilda Banks Shapiro	Term Expires 2022
Larissa Yaple	Term Expires 2023
Shepley W. Evans	Term Expires 2023
Eva Ward	Term Expires 2023
Michael Peretti	Term Indefinite

Tree Warden

Michael Peretti	Term Indefinite
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Truck Weigher

Paul Storti	Term Indefinite
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Veteran's Agent

Laurie Hils	Term Indefinite
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W.E.B. DuBois Legacy Committee

Randy Weinstein	Gwendolyn VanSant
Barbara Dean	Emily DeVoti
Freke Vuijst	Leah Reed
Stephanie Wright	Tim Likarish
Rev. Sloan Letman IV	Sara Mugridge
Valerie George	Emily Williams
Thasia Giles	

Wire Inspector

Theodore Piontek	Term Indefinite
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Zoning Board of Appeals (Associate Members)

John Katz	Term Expires 2021
VACANCY	Term Expires 2022

**BUSINESS HOURS OF TOWN OFFICES**

Assessor's Office	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Dir. of Planning/Asst. Town Manager	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
DPW Superintendent	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Finance Director	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Health Department	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Inspector of Buildings	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Selectboard Office	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Town Clerk	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Town Collector/Treasurer	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Town Manager	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Transfer Station	Friday 8 AM - 3 PM, Saturday 7 AM - 3 PM & Sunday 10 AM - 3 PM		

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETING INFORMATION**

Affordable Housing Trust Fund	Call of Chair
Agricultural Commission	Call of Chair
Board of Assessors	As needed
Board of Health	First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
Cable Advisory Committee	Meets Quarterly, rotates throughout each participating Town
Cemetery Commissioners	Call of the Chair
Commission on Disability	As needed
Community Preservation Committee	Call of the Chair at the GB Fire Station
Conservation Commission	Fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
Council on Aging	Last Wednesday of the month at 1:15 P.M., Claire Teague Senior Center
Cultural Council	Call of the Chair
Design Advisory Committee	Call of the Chair
Economic Development Committee	Call of the Chair
Finance Committee	As needed
Historical Commission	Call of the Chair
Historic District Commission	Third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Hall
Housing Authority	Call of the Chair
Housatonic Improvement Task Force	Call of the Chair
Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force	Call of the Chair
Library Trustees	Second Thursday of each month at 5:30 P.M. at the Mason Library
Open Space & Rec. Plan Task Force	Call of the Chair
Parks Commissioners	Second Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at the Mason Library
Planning Board	Second & Fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:00 P.M.
Regional Transportation Advisory Comm.	Call of the Chair
School Committee	Twice a month at 7:00 P.M., location to be determined for each meeting
Selectboard	Typically 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays at 7:00 P.M., call to verify
Strategic Sustainability & Livability Comm.	Call of the Chair
Tree Committee	First Wednesday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at the Mason Library
W.E.B. DuBois Legacy Committee	Call of the Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals	Call of the Chair



## **SELECTBOARD AND TOWN MANAGER**

Fiscal year 2020 was a year unlike any other in recent history and the COVID-19 pandemic was without question our highest priority for the better part of this year. Despite all the challenges, we managed to adapt quickly and continue providing services to our residents while also moving some of our priority projects forward.

Some of the priorities as identified by the Selectboard this year included the following:

- Addressing Systemic Racism
- Affordable Housing Creation
- COVID-19 State of Emergency
- Housatonic Community Center Improvements
- Housatonic Fiber Study
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Parking in the Downtown Business District
- Personnel Policies

In addition to making significant progress on all of the above noted priorities, here are some highlights from this year:

The town was able to get an elderly transportation program off the ground this year, following the abrupt closure of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation. We now have three (3) vans operating and providing regular daily transportation to our senior and disabled residents thanks to the hard work and leadership of our COA Director Polly Mann Salenovich and her staff.

In the spring of 2020, six crosswalks were painted in rainbow colors throughout Great Barrington and Housatonic to both celebrate our diversity and lift the spirits of our residents during a challenging public health crisis.

In response to complaints about the water quality in the Village of Housatonic, the Selectboard instructed staff to complete a Phase 2 study and appraisal of the water system. The results of those studies are expected in the Spring of 2021.

All town boards and committees transitioned to virtual meetings in March of 2020 after the Attorney General's office allowed for public meetings to be held in this format during the ongoing state of emergency. While a challenge at first, public meetings have become more accessible than ever to our residents.

Another silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic was an expanded outdoor music presence this year, and the creation of an outdoor dining program on Friday and Saturday evenings. This well received initiative will be expanded in the summer of 2021.

### **2020 Annual Licenses and Renewals:**

- 72 Common Victualler
- 33 Restaurant all alcoholic
- 7 wine and malt
- 7 package stores
- 3 package stores – wine and malt
- 1 club all alcoholic
- 1 Innholder all alcoholic
- 20 entertaining permits weekday
- 13 inns or hotels
- 3 amusements
- 1 bowling alley
- 2 motion picture
- 7 class II auto
- 2 class III auto

Thanks to the assistance of a great staff and the support of town residents we were able to accomplish a great deal this past year and we expect another busy year ahead.

A special thank you goes out to Helen Kuziemko, our long-time Executive Assistant who retired this year after many years of service to the Town of Great Barrington. We wish her all the best.

It's been an honor and a pleasure serving the residents of Great Barrington and Housatonic this year and we look forward to serving you in this capacity for many more years to come.

Stephen C. Bannon, Selectboard Chairman  
Mark A. Pruhenski, Town Manager

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The following is a report from the Board of Assessors for the Fiscal Year 2020

### A. Total Amounts to be Raised by Taxation

1. Total Appropriations to be Raised by Taxation	\$ 33,564,432.00	
2. Other Amounts to be Raised by Taxation	\$ 79,982.29	
3. State & County Cherry Sheet Charges	\$ 79,152.00	
4. Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions (overlay)	<u>\$ 175,631.94</u>	
Total Amounts to be Raised		\$ 33,899,198.23

### B. Total Estimated Receipts and Other Revenue Sources

1. Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$ 1,187,368.00	
Total Estimated State Receipts		\$ 1,187,368.00

#### 2. Local Estimated Receipts

a. Motor Vehicle Excise	\$ 420,000.00	
b. Other Excise - Meals & Room	\$ 470,000.00	
c. Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise	\$ 45,000.00	
d. Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 2,000.00	
e. Fees	\$ 278,000.00	
f. Rentals	\$ 117,000.00	
g. Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 80,000.00	
h. Licenses & Permits	\$ 85,000.00	
i. Fines & Forfeits	\$ 8,000.00	
j. Investment Income	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>	
Local Receipts Not Allocated	\$ 1,535,000.00	
k. Enterprise Funds	\$ 2,209,599.00	
l. Community Preservation Funds	\$ 1,314,800.00	
Total Estimated Local Receipts		\$ 5,059,399.00

#### 3. Revenue Sources Appropriated for Particular Purposes:

a. Free Cash	\$ 1,000,000.00	
b. Other Available Funds	\$ 709,000.00	
Total Available Funds		\$ 1,709,000.00

#### 4. Other Revenue Sources Appropriated to Reduce the Tax Rate

Free Cash Appropriated before 6-30-19	\$ 1,950,000.00	
Total Other Sources		\$ 1,950,000.00
Total Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources		\$ 9,905,767.00

### Tax Rate Summary FY20

Total Amount to be Raised	\$ 33,899,198.23	
Total Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources	<u>\$ 9,905,767.00</u>	
Total Real & Personal Property Tax Levy		\$ 23,993,431.23
Tax Rate FY20		

Class	Levy By %	Valuation by Class	Tax Rate	Levy By Class
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Residential	77.9287%	\$ 1,187,159,704	\$ 15.75	\$ 18,697,765.34
Open Space	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commercial	17.5038%	\$ 266,651,310 4,199,758.13	\$ 15.75	\$
Industrial	0.9259%	\$ 14,105,600 222,163.20	\$ 15.75	\$
Personal Property	3.6416%	\$ 55,475,845 873,744.56	\$ 15.75	\$
	100.00%	\$ 1,523,392,459		\$ 23,993,431.23

#### Tax Rate FY19

Class	Levy By %	Valuation by Class	Tax Rate	Levy By Class
Residential	77.7048%	\$ 1,161,667,251	\$ 15.72	\$ 18,261,409.19
Open Space	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commercial	17.3808%	\$ 259,837,987	\$ 15.72	\$ 4,084,653.16
Industrial	0.8890%	\$ 13,290,300	\$ 15.72	\$ 208,923.52
Personal Property	4.0254%	\$ 60,178,925	\$ 15.72	\$ 946,012.70
	100.00%	\$ 1,494,974,463		\$ 23,500,998.56

#### Ten Largest Real & Personal Property Taxpayers in FY20

Name	Assessed Value Tax	Amount of
1. Great Barrington Real Estate	\$ 14,904,600	\$ 234,747
2. Big Y Foods	\$ 12,362,100	\$ 194,703
3. Massachusetts Electric Company	\$ 10,591,120	\$ 166,812
4. Stockbridge Road Realty	\$ 9,644,100	\$ 151,895
5. Educational Consultants	\$ 8,021,700	\$ 126,342
6. KSNS Stockbridge Road Realty LLC	\$ 7,760,300	\$ 122,247
7. Berkshire Bank	\$ 6,063,000	\$ 95,492
8. Individual	\$ 5,436,000	\$ 85,617
9. Individual	\$ 5,054,200	\$ 79,604
10. Butternut Basin	\$ 4,527,800	\$ 71,313

#### Fire District Tax Rate FY20

Class	Levy By %	Valuation by Class	Tax Rate	Levy By Class
Residential	68.5034%	\$ 544,807,094.00	\$ 1.04 566,599.38	\$
Open Space	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commercial	28.1725%	\$ 224,055,319.00	\$ 1.04 233,017.53	\$
Industrial	0.6023%	\$ 4,790,500.00	\$ 1.04	\$ 4,982.12
Personal Property	2.7218%	\$ 21,646,250.00 22,512.10	\$ 1.04	\$
	100.00%	\$ 795,299,163.00		\$ 827,111.13

#### Fire District Tax Rate FY19

Class	Levy By %	Valuation by Class	Tax Rate	Levy By Class
Residential	66.9445%	\$ 526,182,579.00	\$ 0.99 520,920.75	\$
Open Space	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commercial	29.4357%	\$ 231,364,548.00	\$ 0.99	\$ 229,050.90
Industrial	0.6022%	\$ 4,733,600.00	\$ 0.99	\$ 4,686.26
Personal Property	3.0176%	\$ 23,718,023.00	\$ 0.99	\$ 23,480.84
	100.00%	\$ 785,998,750.00		\$ 778,138.76

### **TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

I am honored to herewith submit my report as Town Accountant for Fiscal Year 2020 which includes the following unaudited balance sheet as of June 30, 2020. Audited financial statements and other additional financial information will be made available on the Town website at [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org).

I would like to thank all town departments for their support during the year.

Susan M. Carmel, Finance Director/Town Accountant

### **TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

I respectfully submit the following reports consisting of outstanding tax balances and monies collected by the Great Barrington Tax Collector's Office and Treasurer's Office for the Fiscal Year 2020.

I am honored to serve the people of the Town of Great Barrington and the Village of Housatonic as their Treasurer/Collector, and will continue to do my best to provide them with the best of services.

Karen D. Fink, Treasurer/Collector

**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2020**  
(Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	8,975,950.22	3,448,657.65	2,946,304.40	5,201,522.34	0.00	3,020,723.02	0.00	23,593,157.63
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	97,327.60							97,327.60
Real estate taxes	828,304.06							828,304.06
Deferred taxes	(314,741.64)							0.00
Allowance for abatements and exemptions								(314,741.64)
Special assessments		16,923.33						16,923.33
Tax liens	1,042,873.18	16,959.75		167,156.78				1,226,989.71
Tax foreclosures	262,900.05	3,120.26		24,485.69				290,506.00
Motor vehicle excise	269,245.09							269,245.09
Other excises								0.00
User fees				632,509.40				632,509.40
Utility liens added to taxes								0.00
Departmental	66,126.29							66,126.29
Other receivables	3,295.98							3,295.98
Due from other governments		818,870.69	16,642.00					835,512.69
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Working deposit								0.00
Prepays								0.00
Inventory								0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds								0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave							15,728,271.34	15,728,271.34
Total Assets	11,231,280.83	4,304,531.68	2,962,946.40	6,025,674.21	0.00	3,020,723.02	15,728,271.34	43,273,427.48
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>								
Liabilities:								
Accounts payable								0.00
Warrants payable								0.00
Accrued payroll and withholdings	66,511.50							66,511.50
Accrued claims payable								0.00
IBNR								0.00
Other liabilities								0.00
Agency Funds						6,569.67		6,569.67



Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	610,890.02							610,890.02
Deferred taxes								0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees								0.00
Special assessments		16,923.33						16,923.33
Tax liens	1,042,873.18	16,959.75		167,156.78				1,226,989.71
Tax foreclosures	262,900.05	3,120.26		24,485.69				290,506.00
Motor vehicle excise	269,245.09							269,245.09
Other excises								0.00
User fees				632,509.40				632,509.40
Utility liens added to taxes								0.00
Departmental	66,126.29							66,126.29
Deposits receivable								0.00
Other receivables	3,295.98	818,870.69						822,166.67
Due from other governments								0.00
Due to other governments								0.00
Due to/from other funds							15,728,271.34	15,728,271.34
Bonds payable								5,613,971.00
Notes payable			5,613,971.00					0.00
Vacation and sick leave liability								0.00
Total Liabilities	2,321,842.11	855,874.03	5,613,971.00	824,151.87	0.00	6,569.67	15,728,271.34	25,350,680.02
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	435,522.88	294,149.90	1,267,925.13	112,749.09		10,173.45		2,120,520.45
Reserved for expenditures	2,529,000.00	250,000.00	46,459.39					2,825,459.39
Reserved for continuing appropriations								0.00
Reserved for petty cash	300.00							300.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit								0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								0.00
Reserved for debt service								0.00
Reserved for premiums	12,780.40							12,780.40
Reserved for working deposit								0.00
Reserved fund balance		2,270,390.16				292,815.29		2,563,205.45
Undesignated fund balance	5,931,835.44	634,117.59	(3,965,409.12)			2,711,164.61		5,311,708.52
Unreserved retained earnings				5,088,773.25				5,088,773.25
Investment in capital assets								0.00
Total Fund Equity	8,909,438.72	3,448,657.65	(2,651,024.60)	5,201,522.34	0.00	3,014,153.35	0.00	17,922,747.46
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	11,231,280.83	4,304,531.68	2,962,946.40	6,025,674.21	0.00	3,020,723.02	15,728,271.34	43,273,427.48

## WAGES REPORT

Abrahams, Edward	\$2,499.96	Fields, William	\$196.00
Agar, Eunice	\$525.00	Fink, Karen	\$82,080.02
Arienti, Judith	\$140.25	Firger, Bruce	\$600.00
Attarian, Cheryl	\$24,776.64	Gaughran, Robert	\$33,892.58
Atwood, Marlene	\$126.50	Gennari, Robert	\$5,890.91
Atwood, Thomas	\$1,493.00	Gibbons, Paul	\$40.00
Austin, Darryl	\$65,345.69	Graham, Phyllis	\$923.00
Avery, Maureen	\$1,623.75	Hall, Steven	\$5,741.49
Bailly, Barbara	\$1,228.00	Hammer, Robert	\$23,666.35
Bannon, Stephen	\$2,499.96	Harrington, Richard	\$2,550.95
Bara, Irene	\$20.00	Harrison, Laurie	\$46,378.43
Barnard, Jane	\$10,082.73	Hernandez, Frances	\$2,858.00
Barry, Marion	\$114.75	Holcomb, Jeanne	\$1,604.75
Becker, Cara	\$43,735.77	Hosier, Timothy	\$57,213.60
Bisiewicz, Marilyn	\$51.00	Hoskeer, Patricia	\$114.75
Bissaillon, Michael	\$1,273.90	Houghtlin, George	\$7,630.76
Blauvelt, Marie	\$1,427.24	Hunt, Edward	\$10,036.64
Bona, Justin	\$54,130.30	Ingram, William	\$77,970.94
Bozza, Joseph	\$3,759.91	Ivory, Carolyn	\$275.00
Bozzuto, Lisa	\$1,242.36	Ivory, Paul	\$308.00
Brown, Donna	\$46,998.88	Joyce, Melissa	\$11,454.01
Buchte, Margaret	\$798.00	Jurczyk, Rebecca	\$43,315.62
Budz, Elizabeth	\$114.75	Katz, John	\$600.00
Burger, Charles	\$84,859.35	Kelleher, Francine	\$483.00
Burke, Kate	\$2,499.96	Kelleher, John	\$465.25
Carmel, Susan	\$110,834.48	Kollmer, Matthew	\$50,225.08
Chamberland, Terrance	\$8,505.02	Kotleski, Kathleen	\$165.75
Connell, Jennifer	\$638.00	Krupski, Robert	\$10,364.43
Cooke, William	\$2,499.96	Kuziemko, Helen	\$60,730.05
Coons, Christine	\$129.25	Kuziemko, Matthew	\$1,293.00
Coons, Linda	\$1,331.00	Lagowski, Robert	\$13,921.01
Corbett, Judith	\$1,589.25	Laramée, Christopher	\$65,609.13
Couch, Katherine	\$12,564.00	Larkin, L. Locke	\$28,459.19
Davis, Leigh	\$2,499.96	Larkin, Sandra	\$1,173.00
Dawson, Jacqueline	\$39,139.33	Larkin, Steven	\$66,234.36
De Ris, Iovan	\$7,574.97	Lavoie, Linda	\$127.50
Decker, Joseph	\$46,276.75	Learnard, Kevin	\$1,669.60
Degiorgis, Amanda	\$62,570.65	Leodari, Talya	\$46,898.88
Drew, Bernard	\$242.46	Locke, Frances	\$114.75
Dupont, Ellyn	\$45,391.25	Lovett, Christopher	\$7,931.27
Dymek, Frederick	\$140.25	Lovett, Thomas	\$3,000.00
Dymek, Patricia	\$235.25	Malumphy, John	\$65,569.16
Ely, Paula	\$70,033.39	Marks, Darrell	\$62,086.15
Emeson, Michele	\$623.50	Mawhinney, Autumn	\$3,856.92
Evans, Shepley	\$37,153.61	May, Edwin	\$65,709.82
Farnum, Susan	\$1,369.00	Mchugh, Shaun	\$72,000.00
McMahon, Sean	\$819.01	Strommer, Carol	\$52,857.84
Mcmeekin, Linda	\$1,535.25	Strommer, Stephen	\$450.00
Mead, Adam	\$2,938.53	Tarnawa, Christine	\$51.00
Mead, Brian	\$9,093.86	Tarnawa, Francis	\$7,500.00
Mead, James	\$8,731.72	Thomson, Charles	\$64,928.85

## WAGES REPORT

Meagher, Madonna	\$255.00	Tossavainen, John	\$140.25
Meltzer, Leslie	\$43,165.71	Van Deusen, Sean	\$87,338.46
Messina, Jennifer	\$57,678.08	Vogel, Terry	\$58,316.81
Minacci, Jamie	\$2,767.50	Warner, Christine	\$35,113.92
Morelli, Bruce	\$140.25	Warner, Katherine	\$17,629.65
Morey, Jerry	\$68,840.51	Wasserman, Malvina	\$1,375.25
Nilson, Patrick	\$57,792.08	Weigle, Travis	\$55,672.07
Osak, Justin	\$2,888.97	Wellauer, Kayne	\$1,675.25
Passetto, John	\$89.25	Wells, Dakota	\$52,492.20
Peretti, Michael	\$7,500.00	Wichmann, Carolyn	\$40,711.48
Peters, Joan	\$25,776.00	Woodard, John	\$1,475.94
Pevzner, Matthew	\$68,915.35	Brown, Oliver	\$3,296.00
Phillips, Dorothy	\$6,823.70		
Piontek, Theodore	\$43,909.09		
Premarlani, Lawrence	\$58.25		
Pruhenski, Mark	\$129,790.11		
Pulver, Amy	\$49,386.26		
Raszl, Michelle	\$354.96		
Rembisz, Donald	\$114.75		
Rembold, Christopher	\$102,880.90		
Rivenson, Alan	\$651.00		
Robbins, Janice	\$4,851.47		
Rogers, Mary	\$1,483.00		
Roraback, Barbara	\$1,500.00		
Ryan, Marie	\$18,100.48		
Salenovich, Pauline	\$55,121.42		
Scapin, Victor	\$73,522.03		
Seile, Joshua	\$6,473.10		
Sermini, Donna	\$275.00		
Shaw, Kimberly	\$5,040.46		
Shepardson, Sheila	\$76.50		
Shimmon, Michele	\$1,520.00		
Shimmon, Richard	\$9,861.38		
Shimmon, Ryan	\$59,029.60		
Smith, Ellen	\$8,629.38		
Smith, Karen	\$2,602.50		
Smith, Terry	\$147.50		
Soule, Margaret	\$672.50		
Soules, David	\$75,750.42		
Soules, Lee	\$54,961.25		
Soules, Peter	\$73,801.57		
Stark, Louis	\$2,573.15		

## VENDOR PAYMENT REPORT

20 Castle Street Llc	\$29,242.49	Biosafe Systems	\$2,549.01
A & A Memorial Inc	\$3,484.20	Blackstone Publishing	\$4,901.92
Acentech Incorporated	\$7,740.00	Borden & Remington Corp.	\$15,567.83
Adam Carlotto	\$1,718.78	Boston Globe	\$2,385.55
Aerial Testing Company	\$2,420.00	Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co -G	\$9,049.00
Air Equipment Llc	\$1,165.00	Bradley Lupiani	\$4,888.39
Alden Country Real Estate Sales	\$8,750.00	Briarcliff Motel	\$1,614.58
Alert Scientific	\$990.00	Brien Center For Mental Health	\$1,500.00
Allied Electronics	\$503.73	Bsn Sports, Llc	\$2,404.09
American Legion Post 298	\$2,760.00	Budget Blinds	\$3,617.25
Andrus Power Solutions Inc	\$1,432.22	Bulldog Fire Apparatus 2011	\$26,813.65
Apco International , Inc.	\$1,541.00	C & C Hydraulics Inc & Lubrication	\$1,375.08
Applied Dynamics Corp	\$2,895.35	C.N.Wood Co., Inc.	\$3,592.20
Arrow Concrete Products,	\$4,350.00	Cabot Risk Strategies	\$5,453.92
Arthur P. Jones And Associates Inc	\$14,469.64	Canaan Auto Supply	\$16,007.29
ATG Patriot Llc	\$5,957.46	Canon USA, Inc.	\$7,986.00
Atlantic Coast Polymers Inc	\$1,897.50	Cardillo Mechanical Contracting Inc	\$3,725.72
Axon Enterprise, Inc.	\$2,703.00	Carolyn Calandro	\$690.00
Ayokunie Odeleye	\$1,066.80	Carr Hardware & Supply Co Inc	\$18,575.60
Bau/Hopkins	\$2,715.44	Carrot Top Industries	\$2,696.35
Bay State Elevator Company	\$9,237.66	Casella Waste Services	\$2,019.80
BDP Industries Inc.	\$759.46	Ccp Industries, Inc	\$853.44
Berenson & Bloom	\$7,364.66	Center Point Large Print	\$1,650.24
Berk. County Retirement System	\$1,303,779.12	Charles Burger	\$830.00
Berk. Hills Regional School District	\$16,730,361.00	Chris Rembold	\$755.56
Berk. S. Regional Community Center	\$55,965.31	Christine Faber	\$1,185.00
Berkshire Business Equipment	\$8,148.99	Chubb & Son	\$61,030.00
Berkshire Center For Justice	\$6,300.00	Cintas	\$18,691.54
Berkshire Communicators	\$1,050.00	Civicplus	\$2,525.00
Berkshire Cty Sheriff's Dept	\$1,306.07	Colarusso Blacktop Co	\$19,879.57
Berkshire Fireworks	\$3,000.00	Comalli Group, Inc.	\$11,886.60
Berkshire Gas Company	\$48,968.67	Commonwealth Of Massachusetts	\$18,847.25
Berkshire Gmc, Inc.	\$1,828.65	Community Development Corp	\$450,000.00
Berkshire Graphics	\$2,329.16	Community Health Programs	\$6,500.00
Berkshire Health Group	\$1,555,581.40	Community Preservation Coalition	\$1,750.00
Berkshire Medical Center	\$4,598.15	Connected Solutions Group	\$3,795.00
Berkshire Mt Spring Water Co	\$736.43	Connecticut Business Systems, Llc	\$7,500.00
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	\$27,695.40	Connor Storti	\$2,321.82
Berkshire Record	\$10,355.52	Construct	\$30,012.05
Berkshire Regional Planning Comm.	\$115,041.99	Covert Track Group	\$600.00
Berkshire Stump Grinding	\$2,450.00	Coyne Chemical	\$3,303.36
Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc	\$1,600.00	Cranes Outdoor Power Equipment	\$4,490.83
Bernard A. Drew	\$4,890.00	Crocker Communications Inc	\$3,796.00
Beta Group, Inc.	\$4,111.20	Css Ventures Inc	\$3,125.00
B-G Mechanical Service Inc	\$7,439.09	Cummins Northeast Inc	\$1,472.69
Big Toys	\$3,263.66	CWMARS Inc	\$23,538.60
Big Y Foods, Inc.	\$3,678.97	Dav Engineering, Llc	\$1,350.00
David Grover	\$4,000.00	Great-West Life	\$142,540.04
David Lotto	\$1,800.00	Greenagers	\$9,883.40
David Prickett Consulting Llc	\$248,524.14	Gt Barrington Bagel	\$651.09
Decker's Autobody	\$1,360.06	Gt Barrington Land Conservancy	\$83,129.64
Demco	\$3,403.75	Gt. Barrington Fire Dist	\$842,394.94

## VENDOR PAYMENT REPORT

Dennis P Mountain	\$1,025.00	Gt.Barrington Police Asc	\$5,500.00
Dept Of Treasury	\$723,489.31	Guardian Uniform And Supply	\$13,047.97
Dept Of Unemployment Assistance	\$21,320.00	Hach Company	\$1,190.55
District Dept Of Veterans' Services	\$33,008.22	Hampton Inn & Suites Foxborough/Mansfi	\$1,108.82
Duggan Enterprises Llc	\$8,859.00	Haupt Tree Company Inc	\$72,141.78
E G Lahr Pr & Media	\$13,350.00	Health Equity	\$17,682.65
Eagle Shoe Repair	\$5,882.00	High Pressure Systems	\$1,044.50
Eastern Micro - Graphics, Inc.	\$725.00	Highway Safety Solutions	\$24,320.13
Eastern Minerals, Inc.	\$87,360.75	Hilltop Securities	\$10,738.97
Ed Herrington, Inc.	\$3,514.58	Holland Company	\$1,960.80
EDM, Inc.	\$440.00	Home Depot	\$1,009.38
Elaine Caligiuri	\$650.00	Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing	\$1,300.00
Elder Services	\$1,500.00	Housatonic Valley Association	\$2,629.76
Election Systems & Software	\$682.55	Housatonic Water Works	\$48,879.67
Elias Casey	\$1,902.54	Icma Membership Renewals	\$1,017.60
Elizabeth Freeman Center	\$5,750.00	Idexx Distribution, Inc.	\$6,211.87
Emergency Reporting	\$5,010.00	Ingersoll Land Care	\$13,127.00
Emergency Services Marketing Corp Inc	\$810.00	Ingram Library Services	\$38,652.67
Endress + Hauser Inc.	\$918.38	Integration Partners Corp	\$730.00
Envirosystems Inc	\$6,567.00	International Academies	\$650.00
Everett J. Prescott, Inc	\$3,196.31	J & J Lock	\$10,331.75
Extended Stay America Inc.	\$31,152.06	J P Larue Inc	\$4,034.13
Fbi-Leeda Inc	\$695.00	J. Donovan & Son, Inc.	\$1,774.20
Fiber Connect	\$2,729.00	J.F. Mcdermott Co.	\$2,564.17
Fire Tech & Safety	\$7,969.35	J.H Maxymillian Inc.	\$144,551.12
Firematic Supply Co.Inc.	\$1,668.67	Joanne Kelly	\$690.00
Fisher Scientific	\$7,125.17	Joe Wilkinson Excavating Inc	\$89,661.06
Foremost Promotions	\$939.31	Joe's Mobile Repair Service	\$1,780.41
Foresight Land Services,Inc	\$62,228.23	John Guilfoil Public Relations Llc	\$849.88
Full Circle Technologies Inc	\$14,035.00	John S. Lane & Son, Inc.	\$3,586.16
Galls	\$1,120.27	John's Garage And Autobody	\$4,615.88
Geiger Computers	\$2,925.00	Johnson Controls	\$8,666.67
General Code Publishers	\$2,865.00	Johnson Ford	\$4,996.23
Gennari Plumbing & Heating	\$810.59	Joseph O'Brien	\$2,351.50
Gilmore's Heating, Plumbing & A/C	\$26,355.33	Junior Library Guild	\$5,824.90
Glass Shop	\$675.00	Jurek Brothers, Inc.	\$3,816.94
Gorham & Norton, Inc.	\$415.65	Kaesser Compressors, Inc	\$6,313.04
Gorman Group Llc	\$933.04	Kathi Casey	\$1,425.00
Graber Manufacturing Inc	\$3,925.00	Kelly Granger	\$2,675.00
Grainger	\$9,873.92	Kimberly Bolan And Associates	\$9,292.00
Granite City Electric Supply Co	\$2,480.16	Kinsley Power Systems	\$1,005.23
Graphic Controls Corporation	\$894.45	Kms Actuaries Llc	\$2,500.00
Kofile Preservation	\$3,570.00	Miller's Petroleum	\$944.41
Komline-Sanderson	\$3,429.18	Mirabito Energy Products	\$62,492.16
KP Law, P.C.	\$34,753.15	Mission Water Company Llc	\$9,913.23
Krzysztof Olczyk	\$5,500.00	Motorola, Inc.	\$53,006.05
Kwik Print, Inc.	\$3,014.40	Mount Everett Sanitation	\$7,432.50
L. Locke Larkin	\$605.93	Multicultural Bridge Inc	\$1,231.25
Lapinski Electric, Inc.	\$8,042.64	Municipal Emergency Services	\$2,527.15
Larkin Ltd	\$3,425.00	Nadine B Foster	\$1,315.00
Larson Fischer Associates	\$900.00	Napa Auto Parts	\$2,307.36
Lawrence Charette Electric	\$5,558.00	National Grid	\$193,938.71



## VENDOR PAYMENT REPORT

Lawson Products Inc	\$803.22	Native Habitat Restoration	\$16,889.00
Lead For America	\$15,000.00	Neopost Usa Inc	\$15,722.50
Lee Audio 'N	\$5,654.72	Network Engineering, Llc	\$69,789.00
Lee Hardware	\$14,717.13	New England Aquatic Services Llc	\$2,250.00
Leigh Davis	\$738.51	New England Newspapers Inc	\$1,721.61
LHS Associates Inc	\$5,197.21	Niche Academy	\$742.50
Lipton Energy	\$6,294.58	Northeast Fastners	\$1,020.56
LL Data Designs Llc	\$890.00	Northeast Paving	\$105,144.72
Locke Lord Llp	\$6,500.00	Northeast Slope Mowing	\$2,000.00
Lubrication Eng., Inc.	\$2,296.78	Northern Construction Service	\$1,586,473.97
M.E. O'brien & Sons Inc	\$15,135.00	Northern Safety Co	\$711.15
Macfarlane Office Products Inc	\$6,524.64	Northern Tool & Equipment	\$2,857.94
Madsen Overhead	\$7,379.60	O'Connell Oil Assoc Inc	\$45,067.39
Mahaiwe Performing Arts	\$23,679.00	Odor Science & Engineering, Inc.	\$18,440.33
Mahaiwe Tent, Inc	\$859.28	Office Of The Inspector General	\$1,885.00
Maher Corporation	\$1,813.31	Olde Village Monogramming Inc	\$668.50
Maintenance Man Association Inc.	\$14,827.50	Onsolve, Llc	\$5,510.00
Mapcon Technologies, Inc.	\$3,153.00	Osterman Propane, Inc	\$673.24
Marcotte Ford Sales Inc	\$18,532.78	Ott To Print Green, Inc.	\$1,666.00
Mark Phillips	\$650.00	Overdrive, Inc	\$10,551.21
Mark Pruhenski	\$1,122.63	Partac Peat Corp	\$5,930.03
Markings, Inc.	\$32,631.60	Patricia S. Martin	\$800.00
Mass Assoc of Councils on Aging	\$945.00	Paul M. Wendling	\$6,968.00
Mass DOR	\$227,740.07	Pcmg	\$3,564.00
Mass. Chiefs Of Police Assn	\$1,700.00	Penguin Management Inc	\$1,548.00
Mass. Coalition Of Police	\$7,700.00	Perma Line Of N.E.	\$24,396.05
Mass. Library Association	\$600.00	Pittsfield Communications Systems,	\$8,951.75
Mass. Municipal Mgment Assoc	\$2,722.00	Pittsfield Cooperative Bank	\$23,500.00
Mass. Police Accreditation Comm.	\$2,275.00	Pittsfield Fire &	\$2,596.35
Matthew W Kollmer	\$1,695.35	Pittsfield News Co Inc	\$4,745.53
Mayflower Valuation Ltd	\$9,187.50	Pleasant And Main	\$632.50
Mckesson Medical	\$1,673.10	Plimpton & Hills	\$612.01
MHQ Municipal Vehicles	\$86,450.26	Pmam Corporation	\$600.00
Michael T Quinlivan	\$2,250.00	Policeone	\$990.00
Microbac Laboratories Inc	\$4,409.00	Precision Company Inc.	\$1,589.42
Midwest Tapes	\$16,949.92	Premier Safety	\$655.60
Miia Property & Casualty Group	\$232,364.00	Priority Dispatch Corp	\$2,183.00
Propet Distributors, Inc	\$1,398.20	SWCA Environmental	\$12,800.00
Quality Printing Co., Inc	\$636.00	Synagro Northeast Inc	\$135,252.48
Quill Corporation	\$3,917.23	Syncb/Amazon	\$18,780.34
R.I. Baker Company, Inc	\$13,560.59	T Square Design Studio Inc.	\$4,050.00
R.W.'S Inc	\$3,053.70	TCS Communications Corp	\$2,615.00
Railroad Street Youth Project	\$29,121.54	Terminix	\$908.00
RAIS	\$9,588.80	Thomson Gale	\$4,451.52
Real Estate Research Consultants	\$8,960.00	Tighe & Bond Inc	\$211,281.00
Recorded Books, Inc.	\$315.17	Time Warner Cable	\$10,747.95
Ribco Supply	\$3,996.00	Toce Brothers Inc	\$1,946.96
Richard Eldredge	\$950.00	Tolland Police Department	\$778.72
Richard Harrington Iii	\$638.21	Total Tool Ltd	\$887.35
Ricky Bernstein	\$1,000.00	Town Of Monterey	\$12,457.02
Rivistas, Llc	\$2,470.52	Town Of Sheffield	\$60,623.73
Roger Trucking	\$4,125.00	Town Of Tyringham	\$12,973.78

## VENDOR PAYMENT REPORT

RP MA Solar Llc	\$220,175.27	Town Of West Stockbridge	\$92,953.66
S & A Wholesalers	\$4,601.05	Transcor-It Haywood Assoc Inc	\$693.54
Safety First Fire Equipment Testing	\$4,117.80	TRC	\$128,585.77
Safety-Kleen Corp	\$2,219.10	Tri-County Contractors	\$653.60
Sarat Ford Sales Inc	\$361.95	Trinity Solar	\$611.00
Sassafras Land Care	\$2,218.21	Tritech Software Systems	\$16,643.75
SBETC	\$51,010.00	Tri-Town Health Dept.	\$5,802.07
Scanlon & Associates, Llc	\$25,500.00	Tyler Technologies,Inc	\$52,643.00
Schmidt Equipment Inc	\$3,125.15	Uline	\$1,181.68
Sea Crest Hotel	\$887.64	Unibank	\$485.75
Sentry Uniform &	\$2,757.40	Us Bank Na	\$5,510,788.58
Service Matters Llc	\$1,911.00	Us Treasury, Dhhs, Cms	\$2,027.50
Shannon Chemical Corporation	\$20,476.32	Usa Bluebook	\$3,314.58
Shaun Mchugh	\$972.71	Uumsb	\$15,272.89
Shawn Patrick Godfrey	\$1,050.00	Valerio Dominello & Hillman, Llc	\$48,739.10
Sheraton Boston Hotel	\$1,275.96	Valley Roll-Off	\$49,853.75
Shoppers Guide	\$4,039.20	Verizon	\$23,478.36
Silo Media	\$3,040.00	Verizon Wireless	\$19,173.31
Slack Chemical Company	\$7,715.50	Volunteers In Medicine	\$7,000.00
Sne Building Systems, Inc.	\$812.50	W.B. Mason Company	\$12,867.76
Southern Berk. Power	\$2,535.51	W.E. Aubuchon Co., Inc.	\$1,012.14
Stantec Consulting Services,Inc	\$35,490.53	Ward's Nursery	\$2,619.98
Staples	\$939.39	Wastecorp Pumps, Llc	\$3,426.96
State Street Bank	\$5,928.03	Watson Automotive	\$1,180.00
Steve's Auto Repair, Inc	\$1,487.94	Whalen Nursery Inc	\$1,100.00
Sullivan Associates	\$1,878.55	Wheeler & Taylor, Inc.	\$2,066.00
Superior Industrial Products Corporation	\$6,010.62	Witmer Public Safety Group Inc	\$530.05
Superior Spring & Mgf Co	\$2,886.89	Woodard & Curran	\$2,820.00
Surpass Chemical Co	\$2,564.12	Xavus Solutions	\$1,565.00
Susan H. Ebitz	\$600.00	Zoom Video Communications, Inc.	\$2,912.63
Suzi Banks Baum	\$1,100.00	Zwack, Inc	\$1,601.00
Swan Associates Inc.	\$1,447.50		

# POLICE WAGE REPORT

Employee	Base Wages/Salary	Overtime*	Details**	Total
Police Officers				
Balestro, Kristopher	\$ 71,835.44	\$ 9,383.86	\$ 9,652.10	\$ 90,871.40
Bragdon, James	\$ 68,015.29	\$ 3,011.17	\$ -	\$ 71,026.46
Carlotto, Adam	\$ 87,982.93	\$ 66,876.94	\$ 6,385.92	\$ 161,245.79
Casey, Elias	\$ 55,789.09	\$ 5,950.45	\$ 11,019.62	\$ 72,759.16
Finnerty, Jonathan	\$ 73,563.30	\$ 15,803.85	\$ 4,979.24	\$ 94,346.39
Hammer, Brandon	\$ 27,909.65	\$ 1,604.57	\$ -	\$ 29,514.22
Huertas, Andres	\$ 68,714.28	\$ 36,523.89	\$ 2,394.72	\$ 107,632.89
Lupiani, Bradley	\$ 65,313.56	\$ 16,852.20	\$ 8,181.96	\$ 90,347.72
O'Brien, Joseph	\$ 72,447.51	\$ 9,397.08	\$ 2,793.84	\$ 84,638.43
Peebles, Christopher	\$ 71,377.73	\$ 22,773.41	\$ -	\$ 94,151.14
Shimmon, Chad	\$ 72,837.88	\$ 2,924.81	\$ -	\$ 75,762.69
Stolzar, Samuel	\$ 70,464.26	\$ 24,382.70	\$ 399.12	\$ 95,246.08
Storti, Paul	\$ 91,254.47	\$ 43,592.03	\$ 20,948.40	\$ 155,794.90
Storti, Connor	\$ 30,040.95	\$ 1,783.07	\$ -	\$ 31,824.02
Ullrich, Timothy	\$ 73,122.31	\$ 41,639.39	\$ 6,186.36	\$ 120,948.06
Walsh, William	\$ 97,758.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97,758.59
Zucco, Victor	\$ 76,980.30	\$ 18,345.80	\$ -	\$ 95,326.10
TOTALS	\$ 1,175,407.54	\$ 320,845.22	\$ 72,941.28	\$ 1,569,194.04

Special Police Officers	Base Wages	Details**	Total
Arnold, Bryan	\$ 3,379.51	\$ -	\$ 3,379.51
Bersaw, Daniel	\$ -	\$ 3,662.38	\$ 3,662.38
Cobb, Olivia	\$ 11,277.00	\$ 1,796.04	\$ 13,073.04
Guete, Juan	\$ 3,364.80	\$ 908.80	\$ 4,273.60
Hamilton, Mitchell	\$ 29,382.00	\$ 15,596.26	\$ 44,978.26
Harvey, Paul	\$ -	\$ 7,891.36	\$ 7,891.36
Laforest, Jason	\$ 2,503.11	\$ 5,724.88	\$ 8,227.99
Roy, Timothy	\$ 74.54	\$ 5,288.54	\$ 5,363.08
Scott, Craig	\$ -	\$ 13,571.92	\$ 13,571.92
Ullrich, Robert	\$ -	\$ 15,156.66	\$ 15,156.66
TOTALS	\$ 49,980.96	\$ 69,596.84	\$ 119,577.80

\* Overtime includes State Grants.

\*\* Details are paid by outside contractors.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The mission of the Great Barrington Finance Committee is to provide advice and assistance to the Town Manager, Selectboard and other Town officials on financial matters by efficiently identifying, analyzing and making recommendations on financial matters that have a material impact on the well-being of the Town of Great Barrington. Under the Town's bylaws, the Finance Committee "shall consider any and all financial questions for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the Town," it shall hold a public hearing before Town meeting on any warrant article that proposes spending money or disposing of any town property, and it "shall meet quarterly to review receipts and expenditures of all departments under its jurisdiction." Under Massachusetts law, the Town finance committee recommends the budget to the Town meeting, and its approval is required to transfer money from the Town's reserve fund.

The FY 2020 year was most noteworthy for the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. This resulted in shifting of meeting formats and dates (an additional budget meeting was held via Zoom), and the Budget Hearing, which was originally scheduled for March 17, was postponed—and ultimately held remotely—to May 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Annual Town Meeting (usually held in May) was postponed and divided into two meetings: one on June 22 (prior to the start of FY 2020) and the second on September 15, 2020. While the majority of budget items were on the warrant for the first meeting (and the zoning-related items on the warrant for the latter meeting), a few budget items (e.g., an increase to the Wastewater budget—to account for the greater volume of hauling of wastewater due the increased number of occupied homes in the Town) were added to the September meeting.

Highlights of the Finance Committee's work this year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) include:

The Finance Committee's fiscal year began with an update at the August meeting by the Town Manager regarding new procedures and policies being implemented in the Treasurer/ Collector's Office.

The 2018 Audit report (presented at the February 11, 2020 joint meeting with the Selectboard noted the new and recommended internal controls that were, by then, already in place).

The Committee worked with the Finance Director to put into place a more formalized procedure for requests for transfer from the Committee's Reserve Fund.

The Committee discussed at many meetings information about the new marijuana revenues coming into the Town including the general fees from retail sales of marijuana and the Marijuana Impact Fees. The Committee spent some time educating itself on the timeline and procedures for how these fees are made available (certified to Free Cash) to the Town.

The Committee worked with the Town Manager and Finance Director to try to best manage the sudden and unanticipated expenses for tuition and transportation for Great Barrington high school students to attend vocational programs at Taconic High School (the State requires that students' resident towns—and not the regional school district— cover the costs of out-of-district vocational education, including transportation).

Considerable effort was made by the Committee and others to find means of providing this opportunity to students at reduced transportation costs to the Town (the Finance Director and Transportation Committee found less costly options).

Reserve fund transfers for FY 2020: At the request of the Town Manager and Town Accountant, the committee met and approved a total of \$80,000 in transfers from the reserve fund, broken down as follows:

\$30,000 for travel and training for 3 new police officers (01/08/2020); and \$50,000 for Town's legal fees (02/18/2020).

A review of historical data on reserve fund transfers indicates that the total amount is consistent with the amounts transferred from the fund in recent years.

Of note, in the budget planning for FY 2021, the FC reserve fund was increased to \$125,000 in recognition of the possible unanticipated expenses

that might arise due to the Covid pandemic.

Town Audit: The Committee reviewed the 2018 Audit in February 2020. (The completion of the audit and thus the timing of the presentation were delayed due to the forensic nature of some aspects of the audit.) The new Treasurer/Collector's Office internal controls (noted above) were discussed, as well as the suggestion that the Town to begin looking into how to best manage its OPEB obligations in the future.

Meetings: The committee maintained its schedule of the 3rd Tuesday of each month as our regularly scheduled meetings. The Selectboard Chair, Town Manager, and Town Finance Director continued to be regular participants at these sessions. As noted above, due to the Covid pandemic, the meeting schedule was slightly more variable this year than in most years.

Budget Meetings: The committee met frequently with the Selectboard throughout the budget process in January and February 2020. Beyond the uncertainties and meeting adjustments brought on by the Covid pandemic, this was a challenging budget year, as the proposed FY 2021 budget included several large Special Article items, including:

- (1) a request from *Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad* for \$132,000 in financial support (the Committee [and Selectboard] eventually proposed—and was confirmed by a vote at the Annual Town Meeting—\$42,000 to be included in the FY 2021 budget to support SBAS);
- (2) estimated tuition and transportation expenses (\$123,000) for two Great Barrington high school students to attend the *Vocational Education Program at Taconic High School* (notes: an additional \$100,315 was appropriated from Free Cash [also brought to and approved at the June 22, 2020 Town Meeting] to cover these unexpected tuition and transportation costs for FY 2020; and the ultimate expense in FY 2021 for these educational programs was much less, given the alternate transportations means found (noted above) and that the programs were remote much of the year, so much less transportation was utilized).

Finance Committee membership: The membership

of the committee did not change, as the only member whose term was up was Anne O'Dwyer, who ran unopposed for the committee. The committee re-elected Anne O'Dwyer as Chair and Michelle Loubert as Vice-Chair.

Committee Assignments: Finance Committee members participate in other town wide committees. For this fiscal year, Tom Blauvelt was returned to his position on the Community Preservation Committee; Michelle Loubert continued to serve as the committee's liaison to the Monument Next Steps committee; and Meredith O'Connor continued to serve as committee representative to the Economic Development Committee.

Anne O'Dwyer, Chair

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

HDC Mission Statement- Mass. General Laws establishes Historic Districts to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places significant in the history of the commonwealth and its cities and towns or their architecture, and through the maintenance and improvement of settings for such buildings and places and the encouragement of compatible design.

Public Hearings: The Commission works with property owners, tenants and the community through the public hearing process. The following were held during fiscal year 2020-

- New Exterior Business Signage and Window Graphics for the Tenant, *Barnbrook Realty*, at 271 Main Street which is part of Historic District C, First National/Aldo's Property.
- New Business Signage for the Tenant, *Antique Soul*, in a Storefront off the Atrium at 322 Main Street which is also part of Historic District A, Mahaiwe Block.
- Relocation of Existing Projecting Sign and New Window Graphics for *Samantha Gale/Vintage Farmhouse* from the Corner of 322 Main Street to the Tenant Storefront at 316 Main Street in Historic District A, Mahaiwe Block.

Town Hall: The Commission also continues to review maintenance and improvements at Town Hall also in Historic District A.

A proposal for a Veterans' Memory Garden by the Historic Districts Commission to the CPA/Community Preservation Committee was not moved to Phase II,

An application was filed with the Veterans' Archives at Massachusetts Historical Commission for planning and reuse of the existing Brownstone materials to be removed as part of Repairs to the Front Entry Steps. The HDC was awarded a matching Planning Grant in the amount of \$2,505.00.

General: Several other items during the Year include

A sub-Committee for Downtown Housatonic Resources was formed and an application for a Grant from CPA/CPC moved forward through Phase I and II with \$21,400.00 approved at Town Meeting on the joint application of the Historical Commission and the Historic Districts Commission.

In March of 2020, a section of the Garden Stone Walls along Pleasant Street at the Rear of the FCC Manse collapsed. Metal fencing by was installed by the Owner to secure the area.

Open Commission Position: We are still looking for candidates for the vacancy on our board as an Alternate Member.

Donald V Howe, Chair

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

In FY20 the Historical Commission continued to carry out its charges under Massachusetts General Laws. Our activities focused on four strategic areas.

1. Fulfill the General Purposes of the Historical Commission to protect and develop Great Barrington's historic resources.

- Submitted letter to the Community Preservation Committee supporting the Ramsdell Library CPA application to restore the windows.
- Reviewed and approved the updated plan, submitted by the MASSDOT Cultural Resources Supervisor, for a proposed Route 7/Maple Avenue roundabout.

2. Submitted letters of support for Monument Mills Revitalization's application for Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits for proposed redevelopment of Monument Mills (various c. 1850-1917). Manage and Care for Town Museum Collection

Continued archival work of cataloging Historical Commission artifacts that are housed on the second floor of Ramsdell Library.

Continued work preserving the Don Victor photograph collection by moving storage to shelves purchased and assembled for the purpose.

Daedalus art conservators, Watertown, MA, completed the scheduled annual maintenance of the Newsboy statue and fountain (1895).

3. Market Historic Assets: develop programs that heighten public appreciation of the town's rich architectural and historical resources.

Presented eighth year of the Commission's smartphone Historical Walking Tour of Great Barrington's Main Street business district.

Issued press release for the Historical Resource Survey, Phase I.

Commissioned Bernie Drew, as part of his archival work, to develop materials for a book documenting historical structures and artifacts that have been demolished or lost over time. The purpose of the resulting book will be to help foster a respect for historical artifacts by drawing attention to all we have lost in the past.

Participated with the New England Association of Circulation Executives in a dedication of a memorial bench at the Newsboy Statue.

4. Historic Preservation: promote the preservation of significant structures in town.

- Applied for CPA funds for the preservation of the Belcher Square Trolley Shelter.
- Applied for CPA funds for a second phase of the Historical Resources Survey that would focus primarily on non-building structures.
- Participated in preservation program of Clinton Church Restoration, a non-profit group formed to

purchase, preserve and create a program of use for the Clinton AME Zion Church (1886), an important local landmark and National Register site.

- The Commission reappointed Don Howe as its representative on the Community Preservation Committee and thanked him for his exacting and time-consuming work during his previous term.

Malcolm R. Fick, Chairman

### **VETERANS' SERVICES**

Thank you for allowing me to service the member towns, their veterans, and widows. We have made great strides in reaching out to our veterans in our local area, letting them know the various services available to them from Elderly Services, Community Actions and also the local senior centers. During FY 2020 we have seen a slight decrease in all areas of operation and currently have 42 active Chapter 115 claims.

Chapter 115 Submissions and Return from the State

FY20 Submitted	Pmt Due in FY21-FY20 75%
\$88,832	\$66,662.49

Over the last year, we have completed the following for our member town's veterans:

Applications for VA Health Care	45
ALS/Disability/A&N Appeals/Life Insurance	38
DD 214s	36
Request for Grave Markers	26
Tax Abatements/SS Help/Other Requests	75
Flags to Funeral Homes for Veterans	48
Assisted with Dr. Appointments	7
Home and Office Visits	299
Veterans Services Phone Calls	1228

For FY 2020 District budget was reduced by the reserve resulting in a smaller assessment for the member towns. During these trying financial times, all veterans and widows are encouraged to contact this office or the US Department of Veterans Affairs and review current entitlements as many changes have taken place. Great Barrington's apportionment towards the FY 2020 DYS budget was \$33,008.22 - this number was based on population percentage on the 2010 Census.

Laurie J. Hills, Veterans' Agent

### **CULTURAL COUNCIL**

The purpose of the Great Barrington Cultural Council is to provide grants to support the arts, humanities and interpretative sciences for the direct benefit of the residents of Great Barrington and Housatonic. Sources of revenue come from the Massachusetts Cultural Council solely; at this time, the Council receives no financial support from the Town of Great Barrington. Grants, typically from \$50 to \$500, are awarded after review by the Council.

COVID has altered the schedule for the Cultural Council, as it has for undoubtedly all of our town residents. While normally all grant applications close in October, this year the application process was extended until December 14, 2020. As of February 15 2021, the Council is still in the process of making funding decisions on the 37 grant applications received; one grant was a duplicate application. Those grantees not funded were notified on February 13 and will be granted a two-week appeal process. After that, the Council will determine funding amounts during March 2021. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has allotted the Great Barrington Cultural Council \$5,100.00 to spend for the 2021 grant cycle.

While the Council does not meet every month due to the nature of our work, which is normally completed between October and January, it usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Until the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law is lifted and meetings no longer must meet virtually, the meetings will continue to be conducted via Zoom. The Council is actively seeking new members. Currently the Council has 7 members, but the Massachusetts Cultural Council allows for 21 members for each local cultural council.

Patrick Barrett and Ellen Shanahan, Co-Chairs

### **CLAIRE W TEAGUE SENIOR CENTER**

Staff: The Claire W. Teague Senior Center is staffed by a Director and an Administrative Assistant. The center also depends on many volunteers, Senior Property Tax Work Off staff, and Council on Aging board members to keep the center running on a daily basis.

Goals: The Claire Teague Senior Center serves the needs and promotes the total wellbeing of the seniors of Great Barrington. The center is available to seniors over the age of 55 and offers a wide variety of services and events to the many seniors living in the Town of Great Barrington.

Hours & Meals: The center's regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Meals are served Monday through Friday from 11:30 am - 12:00 pm. The suggested donation is \$2.00 for those ages 60 and over. Meals are prepared and served through Elder Services of Berkshire County with the exception of the site prepared meals and special event meals provided by outside agencies.

#### Summary of Activities and Services Provided:

Elder Services Meals	5000
Brown Bag Distributed	720
Exercise Participants	120
Health Clinic Participants	90
Support Group Participants	250
Education Programs Participants	150
Social Program Participants	280
Insurance Counseling Sessions	1300

Services: The senior center provides on- going programs f including, free tax preparation, \$2.00 lunches 5 days a week for those 60 and over, foot nurse visits, hearing testing, blood pressure clinics, informational presentations, the Brown Bag Program, Medicare Health Insurance counseling and monthly Senior Safety meetings (TRIAD). Ten exercise classes are available for a nominal fee which includes Tap Dancing, Tai Chi, Strength Training, Cross Training, Balance and Movement, Pilates, Breathing and Movement, Yoga, Chair exercises, and Feldenkrais. Learning opportunities include juggling, art classes, a computer class, discussion groups, movies and genealogy research.

This year there were many special events and educational programs including the TRIAD Health and Safety Day that included demonstrations and information stations from Elder Services of Berkshire County, Veterans Agent, Fairview Hospital, Berkshire County Sheriff's Department and the Gt Barrington Police and Fire Department.

This year welcomed in the 2020 Census which is critical to funding for senior programs. The State Representatives office held a public Census Briefing at

the senior center as well as the senior center staff assisting with the registration process.

The Claire Teague Senior Center became a member town of R.S.V.P to offer volunteer opportunities for the senior population.

RSVP is a national organization funded in part by the Corporation for National & Community Service (Senior Corps) & sponsored locally by the City of Pittsfield. RSVP has chapters in every county of our country, with over a half million volunteers

I want to express my thanks to all of the volunteers, staff and seniors who make the Claire Teague Senior Center a wonderful resource and place to visit.

Polly Mann Salenovich, Senior Center Director

### GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES

Friends and Trustees: Both the Friends of The Great Barrington Libraries and the Library Trustees continued to contribute many hours hosting events, before in person programming was shuttered, and raising awareness of the libraries. We greatly value their support and input.

Staff: 2020 saw the departure of part time staff member Melissa Joyce and the departure of two long running full time staff members: Katie Warner and Leslie Meltzer. We welcomed Frances Hernandez as our new Young Adult Circulation Technician. The staff have adapted to furloughs, reduced numbers, new protocols and more during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am thankful for their continued dedication, drive and willingness to adapt.

Notable: The libraries have seen much over FY20. We started the fiscal year under normal circumstances until March when we closed our doors due to the pandemic. Our meeting space evolved from physical to virtual as did most of our services.

Up until the pandemic, our computers were used 121 times at Ramsdell and 7,283 times at Mason Library. The meeting rooms at Mason were used 343 times.

The Great Barrington Libraries joined the Massachusetts Library System sponsored national CSLP (Collaborative Summer Library Program) for our ninth year. We had 260 registered children who read



over 182,979 minutes. The theme for this year was “A Universe of Stories”, which encouraged children to explore the universe, planets, the solar system and more. There were weekly activities where children played Minecraft, built Legos and created dance moves to go with their buildings, a lunar viewing program and Science of ME workshops in cooperation with the Berkshire Museum. In total, the libraries offered 46 children’s summer reading programs with 704 persons attending. The summer reading program took place in the summer of 2019.

Great Barrington Libraries total circulation for FY 2020 was 112,236 items.

Holdings: Total Holdings: 214,817 (this includes eBooks and eAudio available via C/W MARS)

- Mason Library holds 62,349 physical items.
- Ramsdell Library holds 19,254 physical items
- Both Libraries have access to 133,214 eBooks and eAudio

#### Materials Acquired in 2020 for Mason

Adult Books	1,433
Adult Audio Books	139
Adult DVD	321
Adult Serials	749
Children’s Books	1,495
Children’s Audio Books	65
Children’s DVD	176
Children’s Serials	86
Young Adult Books	283
Young Adult Audio Books	4
Young Adult Serials	5

#### Materials Acquired in 2020 for Ramsdell

Adult Books	562
Adult Audio Books	52
Adult DVD	174
Adult Serials	198
Children’s Books	291
Children’s Audio Books	6
Children’s DVD	32
Young Adult Books	10
Young Adult Audio Books	3
Young Adult Serials	5

Hours and Visitors: Ramsdell Library was open Sunday 1-4pm, Monday–Wednesday 1-6pm and Saturday 9-3pm. Ramsdell Library was open a total of 861 hours and had 4,298 patrons visit.

Mason Library was open Monday-Wednesday 10-7pm, Thursday-Friday 10-6pm and Saturday 10-3pm. Mason

Library was open a total of 1,836 hours with 124,161 visitors.

Both the hours and number of visitors are much reduced given that the libraries were closed to the public from March until the end of the fiscal year in June 2020.

Programs/Events: The Great Barrington Libraries sponsored a total of 267 events/programs and had approximately 3,747 people attend these events.

Finances: On July 1, 2019, GB Libraries had \$34,417.98 in State Aid money. We spent \$15,551.03 last year and received \$12,525.53. As of July 1, 2019 we have \$31,392.48 in that account. This account paid for programs and our new website. It is governed by the Trustees of the Great Barrington Libraries. Through fines and fees the Libraries were able to turn back to the town \$9,719.20. This number is reduced due to the pandemic.

I want to express my sincerest thanks to all the employees and volunteers of the libraries for their support, cooperation and hard work throughout this year. It has been a journey and a challenge but they have risen to the occasion.

Amanda M. DeGiorgis, Libraries Director

## HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Great Barrington Housing Authority (GBHA) administers state subsidized housing programs and manages housing properties for low-income seniors, families, and people with special needs. The properties are state assisted, therefore state regulations, local preference, priorities and eligibility requirements apply. Anyone who works or lives in Great Barrington or Housatonic receives local preference. There is also priority status for emergency applicants per state regulations. GBHA manages Brookside Manor, located at 909 South Main Street, Great Barrington, as well as Flag Rock Village located at 2 Bernard Gibbons Drive, Housatonic and Dewey Court located on Dewey Way, Sheffield. All of the properties have state assisted housing for low income elderly (defined as age 60 in Massachusetts), and disabled adults (under 60 years of age). Brookside Manor consists of 31 one bedroom apartments for seniors and is located by the Senior Center. Flag Rock Village consists of 32 one-bedroom apartments. There are eighteen units of family

apartments, three wheel-chair accessible, housing 53 adults and their dependents. There is one four-bedroom house for people with special needs at Flag Rock Village. Dewey Court consists of 22 one bedroom apartments and 8 family apartments located on Dewey Way, Sheffield. Waitlists for elderly and family housing are in place through the state newly implemented CHAMP system. Applications & eligibility requirements regarding housing at Brookside Manor, Flag Rock Village and Dewey Court are available at the office at 2 Bernard Gibbons Drive Housatonic and applicants can apply directly on the state CHAMP system at [mass.gov/applyforpublichousing](https://mass.gov/applyforpublichousing).

The GBHA received two major grants in 2020. A Health & Safety grant for \$21,000 that reconfigured ADA accessible walkways at Dewey Court. Flag Rock Village received a Creative Place Making Grant of \$124,000 for repurposing land on site which will be dedicated to exercise equipment and play spaces for all tenants.

Another highlight for the GBHA in 2020 was the collaboration with other South County housing authorities (Stockbridge, Lee & Lenox). A grant for these housing authorities made it possible to hire Resident Services Coordinators (RSC) Karen Lewis and Christine Straub. They have been creating new initiatives and are working to enhance and personalize our tenant services.

We welcome volunteers who are interested in public housing and helping our community.

If you need further information contact us at (413) 274-1142.

Tina Danzy, Executive Director

## **PLANNING BOARD**

Throughout the time period between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 the Planning Board held 20 meetings, usually on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, as well as two special joint meetings with the Selectboard. Over the course of the year, the Planning Board endorsed 16 ANR plans (subdivision Approval Not Required) that created a total of 6 new building lots. The Planning Board approved 12 Site Plan Review applications, made recommendations on 13 special permits, and issued two special permits. The Board continues to meet periodically with the Selectboard to

investigate ways to create and promote a variety of housing and economic opportunities.

Site Plan approvals included several two-, three- and four-unit residential properties, a new dorm at Simon's Rock, and an electric car charging stations at Big Y. The Planning Board issued one special permit for the creation of a new building lot, via the Rear Lot provision of Section 4.3 of the Zoning Bylaw, and one special permit for a deviation from the sign bylaw for a new downtown business.

The Board worked closely with the Town Planner to craft several amendments to the Zoning Bylaw for the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting. However due COVID-19 and the need to focus on otherwise long Annual Town Meeting on essential business, the proposals were postponed and will be acted upon instead at the September 2020 Special Town Meeting. The proposals recommended by the Board included amendments to: the allowed uses in the Downtown B zone; the setback and height regulations for accessory buildings; allow a "tiny home" as an accessory dwelling unit; the design review procedures; the Planning Unit Residential Development (PURD) regulations; create a new section for the conversion of nursing homes to multifamily uses.

We are grateful for the immense volume of work that the Planning Board accomplishes for the Town, and the many hours that our volunteers give to this Board and other boards in Great Barrington and the region. Members of the Planning Board are active on other town boards and commissions. The Board is represented as follows: by Jeremy Higa on the Community Preservation Committee; Brandee Nelson on the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force; Pedro Pachano and Malcolm Fick on the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and both Mr. Pachano and Jonathan Hankin on the Design Advisory Committee. Finally, Associate Member Garfield Reed serves as a Trustee on the Affordable Housing Trust, and Mr. Pachano serves on the Open Space and Recreation Task Force.

Finally, a special thank you to our recording secretary Kim Shaw. Her institutional knowledge is invaluable and without compare, and her detailed minutes for the past 28 years are an extraordinary catalogue of our Town's planning history.

Brandee Nelson, Chair

## **PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

This Department provides support and technical assistance to applicants, homeowners, businesses, and to Town staff and Boards regarding planning, zoning, and community and economic development matters. The work includes analyzing permit applications with staff and boards as well as promoting conservation and development in accordance with our Town's Master Plan. The department continues to coordinate the Town Manager's Development Review Team (Building Inspector, Conservation Agent, DPW Superintendent, Fire Chief, Health Agent, and Police Chief) to provide technical project reviews. This Department also coordinates capital improvement plans and supports the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as many other boards and commissions. Highlights for FY20 include:

Happily, some of our most visible projects this fiscal year were in affordable housing development, an area in which our town took giant leaps forward during FY20. After many years of planning and design, Berkshire Housing completed the 31-unit expansion of Bostwick Gardens and opened it with a terrific ceremony in October 2019. The CDC of South Berkshire, after removing contaminated soils from a portion of the former log homes site, began building its 45-unit project to be known as the Bentley Apartments; completion is expected towards the end of FY21. Both of the above projects were partially CPA funded. The Town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund inked an agreement to buy seven acres of land in Housatonic to create new homes there; the 2020 Annual Town Meeting granted CPA funds for the purchase.

We continue Economic Development efforts through the implementation of a brownfields assessment grant from the US EPA. These funds were used to assess the nature and extent of contamination at Cook's Garage in Housatonic and Ried Cleaners in downtown. Additional testing is occurring at the former Carpenter's Variety on Main Street near BCC. Our long term goal is that this work will allow all the sites to be cleaned up and redeveloped, so that they can be put back on the tax rolls. We received a significant \$500,000 brownfields cleanup grant from EPA for the Ried site, and EPA's Contamination Response and Removal Program will assist with a second grant of almost the same amount in FY21.

Other economic development initiatives included initial planning to extend fiber optic broadband to Housatonic. We hope that by FY22 we understand the economics and costs of such an important project. The Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District is moving strongly forward in its first full year of designation. A website was created, brochures and window decals distributed, and social media pages are active. The steering committee helps to coordinate and promote activities, so residents and visitors alike can enjoy all that happens downtown, and all our downtown businesses can thrive.

We are also updating our Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, and presented a draft to the Town in early 2020. In a new and important effort, the Town's Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee is helping to integrate Climate Change impacts into this plan. The resulting Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan will help secure MEMA and FEMA funds for natural disaster preparedness and response actions, and it will provide a roadmap for the Town to adapt to the inevitable natural, social, and economic impacts of climate change.

Our parks and open space planning efforts included procuring grant funds to advance the decision of turning Lake Mansfield Road into a recreation path. The June 2020 Annual Town Meeting rejected a motion to keep the road open for traffic. Other efforts included updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which began the long process of updating that plan. In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency took hold, and this update has since been stalled.

Zoning bylaw amendments recommended by the Planning Board at their March 2020 Public Hearing included amendments to: the allowed uses in the Downtown B zone; the setback and height regulations for accessory buildings; allow a "tiny home" as an accessory dwelling unit; the design review procedures; the Planning Unit Residential Development (PURD) regulations; create a new section for the conversion of nursing homes to multifamily uses. Due to the need to keep an otherwise long Annual Town Meeting to essential business, these amendments were postponed and will be acted upon instead at the September 2020 Special Town Meeting

In March 2020 the COVID-19 state of emergency was declared, and this defined the balance of the year. All Town departments responded quickly to the emergency, and much of our efforts in Planning shifted to

supporting businesses, renters, and others navigate the economic shock caused by sudden travel restrictions and job losses. A team effort of our entire local government and community organizations has helped greatly, implementing emergency rental assistance programs and local business assistance programs. Town interns, under special projects director Joe Grochmal and his groundbreaking GBLabs group, created quick-launch, exciting, and successful programs to support businesses and promote our Town. I am proud to deliver this year's report, but this year more than ever, any success is due to the joint efforts of colleagues and our community members, service providers, and businesses for their commitment to our Town.

Christopher Rembold, AICP

### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

The CPC is the town board that implements the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which was adopted by the voters of Great Barrington in 2012. Through the CPA, state and local funds are collected to fund open space, affordable housing, historic preservation, and recreation projects. The CPC is comprised of nine members: two citizens-at-large and one member each from the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Parks Commission, Housing Authority Board, Planning Board, Select Board, and Finance Committee. The CPC administers the community preservation fund, writes and adopts a Community Preservation Plan based on community input, receives proposals from the community for expenditures from the fund, and recommends projects to Town Meeting to be considered for funding. The voters at Town Meeting must approve all CPA funding.

The CPC met 10 times in Fiscal Year 2020, and in the fall and winter dedicated itself to reviewing CPA applications and preparing for the 2020 Town Meeting, at which FY21 funds would be appropriated. In the two-step application process, the CPC reviewed 14 Step 1 applications for eligibility, and received 13 Step 2 applications. After thorough review the CPC recommended eight projects to Town Meeting for funding. In its recommendations, the CPC determined, among other things, that these projects meet the goals of the Community Preservation Plan, provide a needed public benefit and comply with the CPA law, and demonstrate strong community support. The CPC

prepared a report for Town Meeting that was included with the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, to appropriate FY21 funds. All eight projects were approved by Town Meeting. They are:

#### **COMMUNITY HOUSING**

1. CDC of South Berkshire – housing at 910 Main Street, \$250,000
2. Great Barrington affordable housing trust fund – to acquire land for housing, \$185,000

#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

3. Historical Comm. – historic research in Housatonic Village, \$15,000
4. Historical Comm. – preservation of the trolley shelter, \$50,000
5. Historical Society – restoration/preservation of the Wheeler Farmstead, \$145,000

#### **OPEN SPACE & RECREATION**

6. BNRC – trail/public access to Tom Ball ridge, \$30,000
7. Conservation Comm. – McAllister wildlife refuge project, \$33,500
8. Lake Mansfield Road – engineering for open space preservation and recreational land, \$120,000

**TOTAL:** \$828,500

Since its inception in Great Barrington, the CPA has generated over \$4.1 million. Voters have appropriated funds to affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space/recreation projects. The projects are spread all across Town and will result in over 100 new units of affordable housing, 10 historic sites preserved, including rare structures, significant Town properties, and unique buildings, 7 walking trails built or planned, and 100+ acres of open space and recreation areas preserved.

Thomas Blauvelt, Chair

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Conservation Commission is charged with the following:

- To administer and uphold the Mass Wetlands Protection Act, The Great Barrington Wetland Bylaw and the Berkshire Scenic Mountains Act.

- To educate and assist homeowners, business owners and land owners regarding regulations and to help them navigate the decision making and permit granting process within jurisdictional areas.
- To carefully review all applications utilizing assistance from the Department of Environmental Protection and other professional third-party specialists when needed.
- To maintain ongoing contact with engineers, landscape architects, land owners and contractors to ensure site stabilization and permit compliance.
- To ensure a timely response to all emergencies and complaints.
- To issue Stop Work Orders and Enforcement Orders as needed to uphold the Wetlands Protection Act and the Scenic Mountains Act.
- To maintain ongoing communication and coordination with other Town Departments.
- To manage Conservation Properties: Lake Mansfield, the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest and the McAllister Wildlife Refuge.

Last year, FY 2020, the Conservation Commission reviewed and/or issued:

- 17 Wetland Protection Act Requests for Determination of Applicability
- 10 Wetland Protection Act Notices of Intent
- 1 Berkshire Scenic Mountains Act Request for Determination of Applicability
- 5 Berkshire Scenic Mountains Act Notices of Intent
- 12 Enforcement Orders and/or Restoration Plans
- 1 Beaver Permit
- 1 Emergency Certification
- 2 Certificates of Compliance
- 8 Amended Order of Conditions
- 10 Recommendations to various Town Departments or Boards
- 12 McAllister Wildlife Refuge matters and/or other Conservation Property Issues

- 112 Non-permit-related outreach, letters, site visits and consultations

The Commission continues to play an active role in the Lake Mansfield Alliance and we support the Lake Mansfield Improvement Taskforce whenever possible. A member of the Commission serves on the Community Preservation Committee, and the Commission collaborates with numerous local conservation councils, boards and citizen groups to fulfill our role in open space planning and the long term clean-up and restoration of the Housatonic River. In fiscal 2021, we look forward to extensive invasive plant species removal along the Housatonic Riverside Trail and completion of a long awaited loop trail at McAllister Wildlife Refuge.

As always, we continue to offer administrative support to homeowners, small businesses, farmers and environmental non-profits to make the Wetland and Scenic Mountain permitting process as smooth as possible.

Kate VanOlst, Chair & Andrew Didio, Vice Chair

### **LAKE MANSFIELD IMPROVEMENT TASK FORCE**

The members of the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force are pleased to submit this report of Fiscal Year 2020 activities and accomplishments to the Selectboard and fellow citizens. The focus of the July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 time frame was on planning for the Lake road. We also began designing stormwater runoff improvements at the beach parking lot area, thanks to a 604b stormwater planning \$25,400 grant from MassDEP, received in the fall of 2019.

In June 2019 the Selectboard decided to close Lake Mansfield Road to vehicles between the boat launch and the beach. In the summer and fall the Task Force developed a CPA grant application to raise funds for the design and engineering work. In June 2020 the funds were awarded by Town Meeting, and design work will begin in earnest. This work will last more than a year, as detailed engineering plans are developed to stabilize the lake edge and establish a non-vehicular recreation path along the Lake in place of the road. The completed plans will help the Town compete for grants permanently transform the road.

In the meantime, the Task Force and Selectboard also recognized that that road was in dire shape and needed immediate attention. There was debate about whether or not to close it the road immediately, and the Task Force favored a full and immediate closure. The Selectboard decided differently, however, and after permitting by the Conservation Commission, DPW implemented the temporary solution by repaving the worst areas and installing delineators to demarcate a recreation path and a narrow one-way vehicular lane for northbound traffic.

As we entered the spring of 2020, with the pandemic gripping our area, it was clear how important this beautiful scenic and natural resource is to our community's health and well-being. Recreational activity along the new temporary recreation path greatly increased almost immediately.

In other news, the Task Force has begun to plan for a new multi-year round of water quality monitoring and weed assessment. We hope to implement this in FY22, depending on funding.

The Great Barrington Land Conservancy (GBLC) partnered with local landscaper Sassafras Land Care, and donated time and materials, to replant the steep hill at the corner of Lake Mansfield Road and Knob Hill Road. This was completed in the spring of 2020.

The Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force will continue to work to provide for the health and safe recreational use of the Lake Mansfield Recreation Area.

Respectfully submitted by the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force

### **TREE COMMITTEE**

During the fiscal year 2020, the Great Barrington Tree Committee met regularly at the Mason Library on the first Wednesday of each month until winter when meetings were less frequent. The Committee welcomed 1 new member this year: Larissa Yapple. Additional members include Michael Peretti (Tree Warden), Hilda Banks Shapiro, Holly Hamer, Marcia Stamell and Shep Evans.

The committee successfully met the requirements for accreditation as a Tree City USA. We have been awarded this designation 9 years in a row.

There were 22 tree removals, 19 trees pruned, 3 cabled and 5 new tree plantings. Stumps were ground in

preparation for re-planting this spring. There were 3 tree injections against Dutch elm disease and 4 against emerald ash borer.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Committee did not celebrate Arbor Day in the usual way but did go ahead with plantings in the Bandstand Park including a red maple, a dogwood and a London plane tree next to Giggle Park.

The Committee is updating the Recommended Tree Planting List and Main Street Tree Listings, both of which are available on the Town website. Certain trees are now considered possible to grow in our area as global warming has extended the boundaries of hardiness. The Committee will continue efforts to protect our canopy and educate the public about the beauty and value of our urban forest. It hopes to strengthen our existing tree protection ordinance and work with staff on a tree and shrub planting plan for our public parks and roads. Planting more trees to help offset the damaging effects of global warming will be a focus for 2021.

Holly Hamer, Chair

### **DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Design Advisory Committee (DAC) is responsible for reviewing changes to the exterior of buildings, including additions, changes in or installation of signage, changes in the painting of facades, and changes in lighting within the Village Center Overlay District (VCOD). The goal of the committee is to encourage improvements or additions to the downtown building stock which are complementary to the historic nature of downtown.

In the past year we were able maintained all previous positions on the committee, which made it easier to seat a quorum, a chronic problem of previous years of DAC activity. We were also able to have Town Meeting approve a standalone section in the Zoning By-Laws which should make finding information about DAC's mandate and procedures easier for the public. Previously, this information was buried in a special section of the by law without reference or indexing.

For the first time in DAC's history, we instituted a regular meeting schedule set for the second Wednesday of every month, 5:00pm. Having a set

time for meeting allows committee members to schedule their time so quorums can always be organized. In the past, meetings were held on as-need basis which made seating a quorum difficult, sometimes forcing the cancellation of meetings and subsequent delays to applicants. Fortunately this past year, despite the pandemic, we did not have a single canceled meeting.

In 2020, the DAC reviewed 11 sign applications and had several discussion about updating the town's sign by law and revising the town's Design Guidelines. Although no revisions were made or proposed to either, the committee is actively pursuing ways to make these two documents, which are most closely associated with the committee, more accessible for the town's citizens.

Pedro Pachano, Chair

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

During the reporting year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, the Great Barrington Zoning Board of Appeals held just four regular meetings, in which it:

Granted a special permit to expand a pre-existing nonconforming use from a welding shop and construction company to add services related to the construction, storage and sales of stone including cemetery monuments, at 57 Van Deusenville Road;

Granted a special permit to construct an addition to a nonconforming home at 170 Taconic Avenue, to add an addition;

Granted a special permit to construct an addition to a nonconforming home structure at 415 Monterey Road;

Granted a special permit to extend a preexisting nonconforming use to allow a solid waste hauler operation at 57 Van Deusenville Road;

Upheld the Building Inspector's Cease and Desist Order against a contractor's yard at 200 Maple Avenue but granted a two-year stay of enforcement.

An application to change an existing nonconforming use at 11 Crissey Road from a contractor's yard to a storage and warehouse use was withdrawn by the applicant.

Finally, still pending in Court as of the end of this fiscal year is the appeal by GJO, LLC / Gary O'Brien of the ZBA's decision to uphold the Building Inspector's

Cease and Desist Order regarding the property at 11 Roger Road.

Ron Majdalany, Chair

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

We continue to be the only police department in Berkshire County to be accredited by the Massachusetts State Accreditation Commission. On February 4, 2020 we received state re-accreditation for another 3 years. Under the leadership of Chief Walsh, the Great Barrington Police Department was assessed in October by a team of Commission-appointed assessors. The Assessment Team found the Department to be in compliance with all applicable standards for Accreditation; 326 standards with 3 years of proof of compliance.

The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report established 59 recommendations on community policing and building community trust for law enforcement agencies to follow. We continued to have bimonthly meetings to plan implementation of many of them into our department. We added more data to the open data portal with a variety of statistics on our website to increase transparency. This open data portal can be found on the police website:

<https://greatbarringtonpolice.com/open-data-portal/>

In order to further our transparency, we have added all of our yearly statistics to our website. A detailed breakdown of all of the police department's activity can be located under the tab "statistics", then "statistical data 2019-2020":

<https://greatbarringtonpolice.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/157/2021/02/Statistics-2019-2020-1.pdf>

The GBPD has taken the One Mind Campaign Pledge which seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness. The commitment required 100% of our officers to be trained in Mental Health First aid and we fulfilled that requirement. We also had several of our officers trained in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) which is a week-long intensive training.

Chief Walsh announced that he will be retiring in December after 40 years of service in Great Barrington.

“Police Officers Are Our Friends” is a custom-made activity book developed and distributed by a Sharon-based nonprofit, The Law, Your Money and You! which promotes financial literacy and awareness of complex financial and legal issues, and also fosters positive relations between police and communities, with a focus on young people. The books are actively being distributed to youth in the community.

We announced that both our parking lot and front lobby are available to be used as safe exchange zones for buyers and sellers utilizing websites such as Craigslist or the Facebook Marketplace.

Officer Chris Peebles was trained as a Drug Recognition Expert.

3 officers were sent and graduated from the police academy.

Grants the Great Barrington Police Department received:

- Federal grant for body armor: \$1615
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Grant to purchase a portable radio: \$2,700
- State 911 Department to be put toward dispatcher’s salary and dispatch supplies: \$44, 133
- State 911 Department for Emergency Medical Dispatching Training: \$960
- State 911 Training grant \$15,809
- Traffic Enforcement Grant: \$ 7500

Paul Storti, Police Chief

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Great Barrington Fire Department had a very busy year filled with progress, change, success, and tragedy. Just like for everyone else, COVID 19 dramatically affected how we operate. However, we successfully adapted with new policies and operational procedures which enabled us to continue to safely provide quality fire and rescue services to the community.

In December 2019, Great Barrington hired a third fulltime firefighter. Firefighters were transitioned to a shift rotation with one firefighter on duty from 6 AM to 10 PM seven days of the week. This ensures one firefighter is available to respond to emergencies, perform fire prevention inspections, maintain equipment, prepare department training, and perform general department business. Our objective is to support and maintain a quality call (volunteer) force.

The Department also started a ‘Duty Crew’ program where a minimum of two firefighters are committed to being on call for all emergencies overnight. Many firefighters choose to spend the night in the bunkrooms at the fire house. Our objectives are to cut down on response times, evenly distribute the work load, and guarantee at least a couple of firefighters are available.

The department responded to 809 incidents in Fiscal Year 2020. The breakdown by category is shown:

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Structure Fires:	18
Other Fires:	24
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	36
Rescues:	17
Medical:	315
Spills, Leaks, & Hazmat:	23
Hazardous Situations:	29
Service & Good Intent:	84
False Alarms:	263

The year was very busy for major emergencies. In August, firefighters conducted a six hour high angle rescue of a woman who fell off of Squaw Peak on Monument Mountain. It was a very difficult operation involving multiple agencies. The patient was in critical condition when she was brought off the mountain. However, after several months of excellent medical care, she made a full recovery and was able to return to the station to thank those who rescued her.

The most notable fire was in December in an eight unit apartment building on Silver Street. Great Barrington firefighters rescued an elderly couple and contained the fire to one unit within five minutes of being on scene. However, the couple tragically succumbed to their injuries.

In October, the department responded to a single family residence on Fairview Terrace with an unresponsive juvenile and a second disoriented. It was quickly determined the dwelling had very high levels of carbon monoxide in it from a malfunctioning furnace. The children received care by EMS on scene and later in the hospital and both made full recoveries. These incidents highlight the extreme importance of having working smoke and CO detection in all dwellings!

Our responses to EMS (medical) emergencies expanded in January with the on duty firefighter now responding to all serious EMS incidents outside of healthcare facilities. Our Firefighter/EMT is first on scene 75% of



the time, able to provide lifesaving aid, and assist the ambulance crew.

In all, firefighters responded to fires in buildings in Great Barrington totally over \$2.75 million in value. However, damages were limited to under \$250,000, clearly demonstrating one aspect of the importance of a quality fire department.

Fire prevention continues to be a priority for the Department. During FY19, the Town of Sheffield contracted with the Great Barrington Fire Department to perform all of their fire prevention inspections for \$24,000 per year. This has been a beneficial shared service model for both towns. Due to COVID-19 inspections were down for much of the year. A total of 643 inspections were performed in accordance with Massachusetts General Law. The following breakdown shows the inspections by type:

Type	Great Barrington	Sheffield
Periodic Safety Smoke & CO Detectors	193	15
Final for C of O Fire Suppression Systems	99	36
Fire Alarm Systems	59	7
Blasting/Fireworks	17	0
Tank Removals	5	1
Oil Furnaces	2	0
Propane Tanks	5	0
Plan Reviews	27	2
Complaints	34	13
Other	48	0
	19	1
	53	7

The Great Barrington Fire Department, along with the Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SBREPC), stepped up to be a regional resource for procuring and distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at the beginning of COVID. We coordinated with Central and North Berkshire REPCs which created a unified and streamlined system which initially met the needs for local emergency services and expanded to include other town and local services with needs. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) stated that Berkshire County was the model the rest of the state should follow.

Safety Education continues to be an important focus. Muddy Brook Elementary School hosted us during Fire

Prevention Week in October. As always, the students in each class were enthusiastic and engaged in discussions on how they can prevent fires and what to do if an emergency situation arises. However, two of our favorite events, Safety Day at the elementary school and TRIAD's Health and Safety day at the Senior Center were cancelled due to COVID.

The Department believes well trained firefighters are the most important component of providing quality services to the community. In total over 2,900 hours were dedicated to training by Great Barrington firefighters. Training became one of our biggest challenges with COVID restrictions. But, once again we were able to adapt by splitting the department into small groups which drilled on different evenings of the week and moving other classes to an online format.

Our administrative assistant, Jennifer Messina, was promoted to Town Clerk. Joan Peters was hired to take her place and has been a cheerful, hardworking addition to our team. Her position is shared with the Council on Aging, working a half day for each department.

Recruitment is always one of our biggest focusses. Firefighter Richard Harrington graduated from the fire academy in November and Trevor Deris began the next academy in June. We are always looking for more firefighters. We encourage anyone interested in joining to talk to a firefighter, stop by the station, or call 413-528-0788 for more information.

I would like to thank the community for its support and our officers and firefighters for their hard work and dedication. This is what makes the Great Barrington Fire Department a truly outstanding resource for the community.

Charles Burger, Fire Chief

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

The second half of FY20 was dominated by the emergent disease SARS-CoV-2, Novel Coronavirus 2019 and our subsequent response and mitigation efforts. The southern region of Berkshire County saw some of the first reported cases of COVID-19 in the State of MA in early March, 2020. Throughout the spring and early summer Massachusetts was in a State of Emergency that closed all but the 'Essential Businesses.' Our Health Department quickly learned that our primary role in serving the local community was to be a source of reliable and consistent

information. We guided businesses, residents, and visitors alike on any/all business sector specific safety standards, quarantine and testing information, and travel restrictions or requirements. We provided the necessary information to the businesses of Great Barrington and Housatonic as Massachusetts moved through the first phases of Governor Baker's "Re-Opening Massachusetts Plan" with regular email updates and on-site inspection follow up. We closed FY20 in Phase 2 of the Re-Opening Plan.

Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department continued to provide all routine public health services to the Town of Great Barrington and Village of Housatonic.

The Health Department dedicates many hours throughout the year to ensure that each restaurant, kitchen, and Farmer's Market event meets the standards of the Federal Food Code and local regulations. In FY20 Health Department staff conducted over 400 food related inspections and issued 310 Food Establishment permits. We continue to develop policies and procedures to make our department more efficient and effective at protecting against food borne illnesses. A total of 15 Housing Inspections took place in FY20. The Health Department and Board of Health are committed to ensuring safe and healthy housing for the residents and property owners of Great Barrington.

Shep Evans joined our Public Health Team in 2020 as the Animal Inspector, expanding upon his existing role as Animal Control Officer. Due to the pandemic, the Department of Agriculture warned against routine barn

inspections. However, complaints and nuisances were followed up on accordingly.

The following is a comprehensive list of the responsibilities under the BOH jurisdiction:

- Animal and Barn Inspections
- Beaver Nuisances
- Body Art Establishments/Practitioners
- Children's Camps
- Demolition Inspections (rodents/hazardous waste)
- General Nuisance and Public Health
- Complaints
- Emergency Management
- Flue Clinics
- Food Establishments
- Funeral Directors
- Garbage Haulers
- Housing Inspections and Complaints
- Infectious Disease Monitoring
- Managing and Mitigating Disease Transmission and Outbreaks
- Lodging
- Nail/Tanning Salons
- Private Wells
- Public/Semi-Public Pools
- Public Beaches/Water Quality
- Rabies Incident Follow Up
- Septic Haulers
- Septic Systems
- Temporary Food Events
- Tobacco

Rebecca Jurczyk, Health Agent

## **BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Building Permits for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

<u>PERMIT</u>	<u>TOTAL PERMITS</u>	<u>BUILDING PERMIT FEE</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTION COST</u>
NEW SFD	12	\$ 37,394.00	\$ 5,399,900.00
ADD/ALT/REPAIR	105	\$ 35,378.00	\$ 5,446,781.00
SIDING	10	\$ 728.00	\$ 111,441.00
ROOFING	45	\$ 4,291.00	\$ 751,086.00
INSULATION	21	\$ 756.00	\$ 92,745.00
WINDOWS	22	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 240,283.00
CHIMNEY/LINER	17	\$ 623.00	\$ 88,525.00
SOLID FUEL	18	\$ 630.00	\$ 59,610.00
FOUNDATION	03	\$ 336.00	\$ 63,000.00
PHOTOVOLTAIC	35	\$ 5,705.00	\$ 994,726.00
COMMERCIAL	88	\$ 130,476.50	\$ 20,492,062.00
SIGN	34	\$ 1,085.00	\$ 40,608.00
DEMO	02	\$ 150.00	\$ 18,000.00
SELECTIVE DEMO	04	\$ 140.00	\$ 25,240.00
TENT	23	\$ 575.00	\$ .00
SHEET METAL	06	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 169,040.00
TRENCH	45	\$ 1,350.00	\$ .00
COI/CO	91	\$ 7,445.00	\$ .00
POOL/SPA/HOT TUB	10	\$ 966.00	\$ 694,437.00
DEMO POOL	01	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,000.00
ALARMS/SPRINKLER	01	\$ 35.00	\$ 5,562.00
SHED	01	\$ 35.00	\$ 8,300.00
FENCE	00		
HOME OCCUPATION	00		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>\$ 230,781.50</b>	<b>\$ 34,702,346.00</b>

Edwin May, Building Inspector

## **PLUMBING INSPECTOR**

During the year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, this department did 177 inspections and collected \$12,240.00 in fees.

Robert Krupski, Plumbing Inspector

## **GAS INSPECTOR**

During the year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, this department did 108 inspections and collected \$7,080.00 in fees.

Robert Gennari, Gas Inspector

## **WIRE INSPECTOR**

During the year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 this department did 903 inspections and collected \$51,420.00 in fees.

Ted Piontek, Wire Inspector

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) includes the Divisions of Highway, Wastewater, Public Grounds (cemeteries, parks, and public buildings grounds), Public Buildings (facilities). The Department also manages Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling and Engineering design projects for the Town. The annual report for the Wastewater Division will be covered in a separate document.

Highway Division: The highway division operations include winter road maintenance (approx. 98 miles), pavement repairs, roadside mowing, clearing road sides, street sweeping, litter removal, line painting (70 miles ± plus 50+ cross-walks), traffic sign maintenance, re-establishing drainage ditches, reconstructing catch basins (1000±), servicing and maintaining all equipment. Unscheduled work included answering emergency calls for automobile accidents and oil spills, fallen trees, flooding, washouts, and road icing. The division is also responsible for the overseeing of all roadway capital improvement projects. The department is on call “24/7”.

Public Grounds Division: (Cemeteries, parks, public building grounds) along with providing support for the Highway Department during winter maintenance

activities, maintains approximately 130 acres ± of cemeteries (7), parks and green areas and building grounds throughout the Town. This includes weekly maintenance and repairs. Other work done by the division includes building picnic tables for park areas, erecting bleachers and repairing facilities in and around park areas. The Division is also responsible for the sale of cemetery lots and provides assistance during services.

Public Buildings Division: Maintains the public buildings in town including; Town Hall, Mason Library, Ramsdell Library, Claire W. Teague Senior Center, Southern Berkshire District Court Police Station, Great Barrington Fire Station, Housatonic Fire Station and Housatonic Community Center. The staff of the division provides daily support and responds to building emergencies and alarms when necessary. The staff provides additional support for the highway division during winter maintenance activities.

The Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling center is open Friday (8:00 AM – 3:00 PM), Saturday (7:00 AM – 3:00 PM) and Sunday (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM). The Town continues to hold two Bulky Waste Collections days during the year for the residents. The Town also holds Comprehensive Hazardous waste collection days for south county residents the year.

The DPW completed several planned road and improvement projects including:

- Repaving of Lake Ave
- Repaving of Oak St
- Repaving of Cypress St

New equipment purchased by the Department included:

- 1 Freightliner dump truck
- 3 550 trucks

Ongoing projects included:

- Design of Division St Bridge
- Housatonic Water Study
- Highway Garage remediation
- Pavement Management Plan
- Storm Water Management Plan
- Main St Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Annual contracts managed by the Department include:

- WWTP Chemicals – Various suppliers
- Sludge Management Contract
- Catch Basin Cleaning
- Refuse Collection (buildings)
- Diesel Fuel
- Heating Oil
- Gasoline
- Elevator Service
- Building Alarm Services
- Building Sprinkler Systems Service

- Landfill monitoring
- Uniform Services
- Backup Generators annual maintenance contracts
- Annual Boiler Maintenance

Sean T. VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent

## **WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

During the 2020 calendar year, the Town's wastewater treatment facility processed approximately 329.26 million gallons of wastewater, 2.94 million gallons of septic tank waste, and disposed of 2,470,200 pounds of sludge and grit. During this period, the treatment facility discharged a high quality, effluent to the Housatonic River. There were no violations of the Town's federal discharge permit.

All pumps, motors and other equipment were maintained throughout the year. Any equipment failures were quickly addressed.

The wastewater collection system and the six sewage pumping stations were regularly inspected and maintained.

We are conducting a multi-phase study of the collection system to identify significant sources of extraneous water (Inflow and Infiltration) entering the system. Upon completion of the study, a priority list will be generated, and from the list, a phased removal of the sources can begin.

We are again asking the public to please dispose of sanitary and cleaning wipes in the trash. These items have become a serious issue at the wastewater pumping stations by clogging pumps and equipment. Wastewater Treatment Facility staff are spending numerous man hours per week addressing pump failures that are directly attributed to wipes. These costs affect the wastewater treatment facility's operating costs and, ultimately, the sewer user rates.

William Ingram, Facility Superintendent

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

The Parks and Recreation Commission's responsibility is oversight of programming, development and budgeting for the various parks and playgrounds of the

town. None of it could be accomplished without the excellent work by Sean Van Deusen and his crew at the DPW.

We are grateful to Berkshire South and the RRSYP for the incredible effort toward making our parks and programming available through the COVID issue. The committee would also like to thank Iredale Cosmetics for their contribution to improve Giggle Park Equipment and the Thursday Morning club for the bench at Dewey Park.

In 2020 the Parks and Recreation Committee finished the following projects:

- Completed a Town Wide Parks/Recreational needs and asset analysis as well as added signage.
- Completed major upgrades to Giggle Park.
- Began Preliminary Design work for major upgrades to Memorial Field including ADA accessibility, which will include dugouts, backstop and infield upgrade.
- Began design for upgrades to the two softball fields at Olympia Meadows.
- Completed upgrades to the Minor League and Little League Fields which included field upgrades and new bases.
- Tractors were added to the equipment at Olympia Meadows and Memorial Field to assist with maintenance.
- Installed 3 water bottle filling stations throughout town.
- Berkshire South continued as the management for Lake Mansfield and the Housatonic Playground. Railroad Street Youth Project continued the management of the Skate Park. Both programs had a very successful summer season adapting the programming during COVID
- Held Community Outreach Meetings to discuss future upgrades at Dewey Park.
- The Parks Commission took over management of the programming of the Housy dome.
- Installation of new gaga ball pit at South St Park
- Supported the ice rink at Memorial Field through RRSYP
- Hand Sanitizing stations added throughout town
- All parks were adapted for COVID protocols.
- Preliminary design of new playground equipment at Lake Mansfield.

Karen W. Smith, Chair

## **TOWN CLERK**

Fiscal Year 2020 was quite a memorable “first year”, due to the pandemic, for myself as a new Town Clerk and the new Assistant Town Clerk Katherine Couch. Kathy and I had the extreme challenge of learning new roles within the Town and how to safely hold annual town meetings, elections and to handle other town business with steps in place to protect the citizens and workers.

During the fiscal year that began July 1, 2019 and ended June 30, 2020 there was one (1) Special Town Meeting, one (1) State Primary Election, an Annual Town Meeting that was held over 2 nights and one (1) Annual Town Election.

<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u># of Voters</u>	<u>%Voted</u>
Special Town Meeting December 11, 2019		
4,869	292	6%
State Primary Election March 3, 2020		
4,885	2,179	45%
Annual Town Meeting June 22, 2020		
4,910	257	5.2%
Annual Town Meeting June 25, 2020		
4,910	159	3.2%
Annual Town Election June 30, 2020		
4,914	515	10%

The Annual Town Meeting was held on June 22, 2020 and continued to June 25, 2020 with voters (5.2% and 3.2% respectively). The Town acted on Articles 1-21 on the first night. The other 9 warrant articles, that were citizen petitions, were continued to the second night. Two articles were voted on and failed and the 7 other articles were referred to the next Special Town Meeting. The most notable items were the operating budget for public safety and on the second night a citizen petition article to mandate that Lake Mansfield Road be maintained as a two-way vehicular road. There was approved borrowing for 2 police cruisers, 1 highway dump truck with a plow & sander, a roadside mower, an EMS/Service vehicle and a speed trailer.

There were 147 births, 126 deaths and 52 marriages recorded during the fiscal year. The Clerk’s office also issued 852 dog licenses, 103 business certificates (DBA’s) and processed 142 public record requests. The Annual Census was 6,502 with 4,774 registered voters in the Town of Great Barrington at the end of the fiscal year.

The Town Clerk’s Office would like to recognize and thank all the poll workers whom we could not run the elections or town meetings without! We appreciate

everyone’s hard work and dedication especially during this extremely difficult year.

Jennifer L. Messina, Town Clerk

## **BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

During the fiscal year there were three voter registration sessions. As of June 30, 2020 there were 4,774 registered voters in Great Barrington. Registered voters by party affiliation were:

<u>Party</u>	<u>Number of Voters</u>
American First Party	1
American Independent	2
Conservative	1
United Independent Party	27
Democratic	2055
Green Party USA	2
Green Rainbow	8
Libertarian	12
MA Independent Party	1
Republican	300
Inter 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party	2
Pirate Party	1
Unenrolled	2361
Working Families	1

The annual census/street list was completed in September of this year. Based on the forms that were returned to the office, our resident count as of June 30, 2020 was 6,502.

Jennifer L. Messina, Town Clerk

WARRANT

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE, SS

To William Walsh, Chief of Police of the Town of Great Barrington, in said Berkshire County,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of said town to meet at the Great Barrington Fire Station, 37 State Road in the Town of Great Barrington in Precinct A for Precincts A, C, and D, and at the Housatonic Community Center Building in the Village of Housatonic, in Precinct B, for Precinct B on Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. for the following purposes, viz.; to elect:

MODERATOR, ONE FOR ONE YEAR

SELECTBOARD, ONE FOR THREE YEARS

BOARD OF HEALTH, ONE FOR THREE YEARS

FINANCE COMMITTEE, ONE FOR THREE YEARS

HOUSING AUTHORITY, ONE FOR FIVE YEARS

LIBRARY TRUSTEES, TWO FOR THREE YEARS

PLANNING BOARD, TWO FOR THREE YEARS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, TWO FOR THREE YEARS

**BALLOT QUESTION:**

Shall the Town of Great Barrington be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition Two and One-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay the cost of building improvements to Town Hall and the Mason and Ramsdell Libraries, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto.

The above named officers and ballot question will be voted for on official ballots prepared by the Town Clerk.

You are also required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Monument Mountain High School in Great Barrington on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following:

**ARTICLE 1:**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2021 beginning on July 1, 2020 for the revolving funds as established in the Town's by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, commissions, agencies or officers in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ as follows; or take any other action relative thereto.

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer</b>	<b>FY2021 Spending Limit</b>
Plumbing Inspections	Building Department	\$15,000
Wiring Inspections	Building Department	\$55,000
Gas Inspections	Building Department	\$12,000
Cemetery	Public Works Department	\$ 5,000

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

## **ARTICLE 2:**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 as indicated below:

### Elected Officials Salaries:

Selectboard: \$18,750 (\$3,750 per Selectboard member)

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

## **ARTICLE 3:**

To see if the Town will vote to accept any and all funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of town ways and bridges; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

## **ARTICLE 4:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the operation of the several departments in the Town for the ensuing year for the purposes outlined below; or to take any other action relative thereto.

### **General Government**

Town Manager/Selectboard	\$ 414,427
Finance Committee/Reserve Fund	253,300
Finance Director/Town Accountant	146,550
Technology	215,150
Assessors' Office	154,575
Treasurer/Collector	208,437
Town Clerk/Elections	130,698



Conservation Commission	30,685
Various Boards/Commission	19,970
Planning Board	5,250
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,300
Office of Planning/Community Development	134,850

**Public Safety**

Police Department	1,723,347
Fire Department	624,496
Communications/Emergency Management	21,103
Building Inspector	167,013
Animal Control	12,520

**Department of Public Works** 2,308,258

**Public Health**

Health Department	117,775
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**Community Services**

Council on Aging	147,161
Veterans' Affairs	143,700
Human Services	25,000

**Cultural/Recreation**

Libraries	559,958
Parks/Recreation	115,000

**Miscellaneous**

Insurance	1,765,452
Debt Service	1,803,116
Retirement	965,411
Celebrations/Seasonal/Events/Band Programs	<u>9,000</u>

**Total General Fund** \$ 12,223,502

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 5:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the receipts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant such sums of money necessary for the operation of the Sewer Division for the ensuing year for the purposes outlined below; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Salaries	\$ 473,967
Expenses	690,800
Insurance/Benefits	306,974
Miscellaneous/Transfers	180,000
Debt Service	<u>671,232</u>
<b>Total Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>	<b>\$2,322,973</b>

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 6:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,628,500, or any other sum of money, in the following approximate amounts and for the following purposes, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Street and Bridge Improvements	\$2,315,000
Building Improvements	500,000
Police Cruisers (2)	127,500
Highway Dump Truck w/Plow & Sander	230,000
EMS/Service Vehicle	60,000
Police Portable Radios (6)	46,500
Roadside Mower	180,000
Mowers (2)	32,000
1-ton Roller	30,000
Fire Equipment	35,500
Speed Trailer	12,000
Parks Equipment	<u>60,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,628,500</b>

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 7:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Seventeen Million, Sixty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Four Dollars (\$17,064,184) for the operating assessment, and Five Hundred Three Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$503,160) for the capital assessment, for a total assessment of Seventeen Million, Five Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Four Dollars (\$17,567,344) of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 8:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$690,000, or any other sum of money, for Wastewater capital improvements, in the following approximate amounts and for the following purposes, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Inflow & Infiltration Study	\$200,000
Maple/Main St Sewer Replacement	400,000
F350 Service Truck w/Plow & Sander	<u>90,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$690,000</b>

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 9:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2021; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 10:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash a sum of money representing amounts received under host community agreements with marijuana establishments to fund various community programs, under an application and approval process to be administered by the Town Manager; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 11:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$42,000 to support the operation of the Southern Berkshire Ambulance service (Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad, Inc.); or take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 12:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash \$100,315 to fund the Fiscal Year 2020 tuition and transportation costs for out of district vocational education, in accordance with Chapter 74 of Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 13:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$123,000 to fund the Fiscal Year 2021 tuition and transportation costs for out of district vocational education, in accordance with Chapter 74 of Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Finance Committee and Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 14:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of prior fiscal year invoices from the FY20 operating budgets of the Selectboard/Town Manager, Treasurer and Technology Departments; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 15:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 4 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held on May 1, 2017, which, among other things, approved the borrowing of \$70,000 to pay costs of public safety communication improvements, so as to permit the expenditure of \$20,000 authorized for that purpose, but which is not necessary for the completion of that project, to pay costs of engineering and planning related to installing a broadband cable in the Housatonic area of the Town; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 16:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend prior votes of the Town that authorized the borrowing of money to pay costs of capital projects to provide that, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes pursuant to such votes, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs, and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Selectboard**

**ARTICLE 17:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote under Article 8 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$650,000 for capital improvements to the Housatonic School including the costs of a new roof, windows and masonry work, by revising the amounts authorized to be transferred for such appropriation as follows: increase the amount to be transferred from the Sale of Real Estate Fund (Bryant and Searles Schools) from \$300,000 to \$350,000 and decrease the amount to be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund from \$350,000 to \$300,000; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 18:****Community Preservation Fund Reserves & Appropriations**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve for future appropriation, from the Community Preservation Fund, the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for FY21, with each item considered a separate appropriation; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Reserves:**

From FY21 revenues for historic resources reserve	\$ 50,000
From FY21 revenues for community housing reserve	\$ 50,000
From FY21 revenues for open space reserve	\$ 50,000

**Appropriations:**

From FY21 revenues for administrative expenses	\$ 20,000
Balance of FY21 revenues for FY21 budgeted reserve	\$ 345,000

**Recommended by the Community Preservation Committee****ARTICLE 19:****Community Preservation Projects**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund for FY21 the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or to take any other action relative thereto.

		Source of Appropriation	
Project	Total Appropriation	FY21 Revenues	Fund Balance
<i>Affordable Housing</i>			
1 CDC of South Berkshire, to create new housing at 910 Main Street	\$250,000	\$250,000	
2 Town Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to acquire land for housing	\$185,000		\$185,000
Subtotal, Affordable Housing	\$435,000		
<i>HISTORIC RESOURCES</i>			
3 Town Historical Commission, for historic properties research in Housatonic Village	\$15,000		\$15,000
4 Town Historical Commission, to preserve the historic trolley shelter	\$50,000		\$50,000
5 Historical Society, to restore and preserve Wheeler museum buildings and artifacts	\$145,000	\$145,000	

	Subtotal, Historic Resources	\$210,000		
	<i>OPEN SPACE &amp; RECREATION</i>			
6	Berkshire Natural Resources Council, to create public access/trailhead improvements	\$30,000	\$30,000	
7	Conservation Commission for the McAllister Wildlife Refuge preservation project	\$33,500	\$33,500	
8	Lake Mansfield Road design to preserve open space / create recreational land	\$120,000		\$120,000
	Subtotal, Open Space & Recreation	\$183,500		
	TOTAL	\$828,500	\$458,500	\$370,000

**Recommended by the Community Preservation Committee**

**ARTICLE 20:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 13 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held on May 6, 2019, which approved the appropriation of \$100,000 from FY20 Community Preservation Act revenues to the Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of downpayment assistance, so as to permit the expenditure of said appropriation for either downpayment assistance or for rental assistance; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Recommended by the Community Preservation Committee**

**ARTICLE 21:**

**Easements and/or Land Takings for Wastewater Pump Station Upgrades**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire certain easements and/or property through all legal means including donation, purchase, or eminent domain, in order to implement a wastewater pump station upgrades project, including construction of four new pump stations at the following locations:

1. Cone Ave area
2. Rising Mill area
3. Fairgrounds
4. Senior Center

as shown on plans entitled “Wastewater Pump Station Upgrades Project,” prepared by DPC Engineering, LLC, Longmeadow, MA, October 2019, and which are on file with the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***\*\*Despite best efforts to restrict Annual Town Meeting articles to essential business in response to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the Selectboard has a statutory obligation to include articles submitted by petition. The Selectboard will ask voters to pass over, or refer to the Planning Board, articles 22-30 on the warrant, and will place any of those articles which are passed over or referred to the Planning Board on the next Special Town Meeting warrant without any further action required of the petitioners.***

## **ARTICLE 22:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned voters of Great Barrington hereby request the following modifications to Section 8.4 of the Zoning Bylaw, to be added to the Warrant at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. These same modifications regarding Mixed Use Development (MXD) were put forth by the GB Planning Board at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting and approved by an overwhelming majority of voters. The Town vote was subsequently overturned by the Massachusetts Attorney General due to a procedural error, based on the Town's failure to present the required publication of the Amendment prior to the vote.

We are hereby submitting and requesting for the 2020 Warrant that the language contained in the 2019 Warrant Amendment be voted on again. To note, this is the *identical* language that was endorsed by Select Board and Planning Board in 2019, and approved by the Town of Great Barrington voters at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting:

Article 21, Amendment 6, Section 8.4 of the Zoning Bylaw:

### *6. Amend portions of Section 8.4, mixed use development, as follows*

**8.4.1 General.** ~~For mixed uses in the B, B2, I, and I2 zones, all of the following requirements shall apply. For mixed uses in the B3 zone, see Section 9.4. For mixed uses in the HVC and HVOD zones, see Sections 9.9 and 9.10 respectively. For mixed uses in MXD zones, see Section 9.11. The requirements of this section shall apply to mixed use development. Where zoning districts have requirements that conflict with this section, the requirements of the applicable zoning district shall prevail.~~

### **8.4.2 Requirements.**

1. When residential use is combined with other nonresidential permitted uses, the controlling dimensional requirements shall be the less restrictive. For the multifamily component of a mixed use development there shall be at least 2,500 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit. The Selectboard may, by special permit, reduce the lot area per unit requirement.
2. ~~A portion of the street level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use. Inside the Village Center Overlay District, this portion shall be a minimum of 75%. Inside the Village Center Overlay District, a minimum of 75% of street-level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use. Outside the Village Center Overlay District, a minimum of 25% of street-level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use. The Selectboard may, by special permit, reduce the nonresidential space requirement.~~

## **ARTICLE 23:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

To ask Town residents to vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §9.11 as set forth below, and to amend the Zoning Map accordingly:

### *1. Amend a portion of Section 9.11, Mixed Use Traditional Zone (MXD) as follows:*

**9.11.2 Location.** The MXD shall consist of the land shown on the ~~2015~~ 2016 Town of Great Barrington Assessors' Map 22 as Parcels 2, 3A, 4-13 4-6, 18-63 63, 66-88 66-72, 81-88, 88A and on Map 25 as Parcels 1-4.

### *2. Amend the Zoning Map by placing the following parcels in a R3 zone, as follows: the land shown on the 2016 Town of Great Barrington Assessors' Map 22 as Parcels 7-13, 18-62, 73-80.*

Purpose of the Amendment: At the 2016 Annual Town Meeting the Town Planning Board put through a proposal that created the MXD zone. The stated purpose of the 2016 proposal cites “the recommendations of the 2013 Master Plan to update the zoning in certain commercial areas within walking distance of a village center, to preserve and enhance the mix of residential and retail uses, and to reflect the context of the built fabric.” This MXD zone does not accomplish its stated purposes. It joins together two drastically different neighborhoods: the Mahaiwe Triangle (mostly residential parcels on Pope, Mahaiwe and Manville Streets, and 14 residential parcels along nearby Main Street) with commercial parcels west of Maple Avenue and south of Manville Street. The Mahaiwe Triangle is not a commercial area; it consists of one-family residences 60-120 years old with a smattering of houses legally converted into two-family and professional space.

As two separate pending lawsuits are demonstrating, this MXD zone has created a loophole by which land developers are acting without any effective zoning regulations. By examining the Table of Use Regulations in Zoning Bylaw §4.1.2, it is appropriate to place the Mahaiwe Triangle in a R3 Zone.

	Min lot	Width	Front	Side	Rear	Bldg %	Story	Height
R3	5000	50	25	10	30	25	2.5	35
B2	43,560	50	50	20	30	25-40	2.5	35
MXD	5000	50	15	10	10	75	3.5	40

**ARTICLE 24:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned, seek a zoning change to the i2 zoning district.

Under use regulations 3.0c section 13(marijuana establishment and Manufacturing) in the i2 Zone. The current zoning is listed as a no. We would ask the planning board to change this to a SB zone.

**ARTICLE 25:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned submit this citizen’s petition to the voters of the Town of Great Barrington:

To see if the Town will vote to amend sections 7.18.4 and 7.18.5 of the Great Barrington Zoning bylaw 7.18 Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and modify section 3.1.4 Table of Uses accordingly or to take any other action relative thereto.

Purpose of the Amendment: The undersigned propose this amendment in response to the concerns expressed by some residents in numerous public meetings and forums as to the negative impacts of marijuana businesses in our community, particularly those located or proposed to be located in or near our residential neighborhoods. Our Master Plan states, “Great Barrington’s vision includes protecting and enhancing our compact village centers, historic treasures, natural resources, farms, and open spaces, all of which contribute to Great Barrington’s distinctive character. Our goals include directing development and growth into village centers, supporting existing residential neighborhoods, and ensuring that new developments in resource areas are sited and build it in a way that sustains our rural countryside and agricultural areas.”

The Master Plan further states, “Residents expect and deserve quiet neighborhoods free from odor, glare, noise and other impacts of commercial activity. Proper buffering and design standards can help ensure business remains healthy and residential property values remain stable, while still encouraging concentration of development in the core areas.” The undersigned bring forward the below changes to Zoning by law 7.18 in an effort to better align this bylaw and the Table of Uses with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan.



Proposed deletions of existing text are ~~struck through~~.

Proposed insertions are underlined.

*Amend Portions of Section 7.18.4 as follows:*

**7.18.4. Locational requirements.** Marijuana establishments may be located in accordance with Section 3.1.4, Table of Use Regulations, except as follows:

1. No marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center may be located closer than ~~200~~ 500 feet from a preexisting public or private school providing education in Kindergarten or any of Grades 1 through 12 child care facility, including preschools and daycare centers, or any facility in which children commonly congregate, including, but not limited to, a public library, a playground or park, and athletic field or recreational facility, a place of worship, or a town-owned beach.

2. The distance in paragraph 1 is to be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the property line of the proposed marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center and the nearest point of the property line of the protected uses stated above in paragraph 1.

3. The Selectboard may, by special permit pursuant to Section 10.4, authorize a deviation from this distance requirement if it finds the marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center will not be detrimental to a protected use.

4. No Marijuana Establishment of Medical Establishment of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center will be allowed in any Residential District as described in Section 2.0 of the Zoning Bylaws.

4. 5. Other types of marijuana establishments licensed by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission may be permitted in accordance with the appropriate use category in the Table of Use Regulations.

*2. Amend portions of Section 7.18.5 as follows:*

**7.18.5. Physical Requirements.** In addition to pertinent requirements of implementing regulations of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Marijuana establishments and medical marijuana treatment centers shall comply with the following:

1. All aspects of a marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center relative to the acquisition, cultivation, possession, processing, sales, distribution, dispensing, or administration of marijuana, products containing marijuana, marijuana accessories, related supplies, or educational materials shall take place at a fixed location within a fully enclosed building or fenced area dedicated to the cultivation of marijuana and shall not be visible from the exterior of the business.

2. No unprotected storage of marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials is permitted.

3. No use shall be allowed by a Marijuana Establishment of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center which creates a nuisance to abutters of the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard, including but not limited to fire, explosion, fumes, gas, smoke, odors, obnoxious dust, vapors, offensive sound or vibration, flashes, glare, objectionable effluent or electrical interference, which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.

4. No odor from marijuana or its processing can be detected by a person with an unimpaired and otherwise normal sense of smell at the exterior of a Marijuana Establishment or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center or at any adjoining use of property.

5.No noise from the establishment of its operations, including but not limited to ventilation, can be detected by a person with unimpaired and otherwise normal hearing at the exterior of a Marijuana Establishment of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center or at any adjoining use or property.”

6. Marijuana Establishments or Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers with grow operations in a translucent building shall not illuminate grow operations between dusk and dawn.

3. 7. Marijuana not grown inside a securable structure shall be enclosed within a six-foot fence, and inasmuch as possible the plants shall be screened from view, at grade, from a public way or from a protected use.

4 8. No outdoor cultivation of marijuana shall be allowed within ~~fifty (50)~~ two hundred (200) feet of any property line.

#### **ARTICLE 26:** (by petition)

To see if the residents of this Town will vote to amend Chapter 241 of the Town Code, Division 3 Miscellaneous Rules and Regulations, as set forth below:

1. *Amend Section 241-1 **Placement on Agenda**, as follows:*

Every Great Barrington committee or board, whether appointed or elected, shall place on their agenda of public meetings an item for citizen speak time. Except for procedural and housekeeping matters, Town residents shall have the right to address a Board on any item that requires a vote at a time before a Board votes on that item. Such residents will be allowed as much time as the proponent of an item is permitted to have.

*Purpose of the Amendment:* Under current law and procedure, residents have the right to speak at a public hearing or on a special permit or during Citizen Speak at the end of the evening’s meeting or when recognized by the Chair of a Board. There are often items on the agenda of a public meeting for which a Board will have a discussion and vote. Each Board allows the proponent of an item to present its proposal and to present evidence and testimony relative to such proposal. During and after such presentation, a Board may ask questions of the proponent. Rarely does a Board allow residents the right to speak at that time, before a vote on the item. Residents may speak as of right during the Citizen Speak portion at the end of a meeting. But this may be of little consequence to the merits of a proposal as a vote has already been taken. There are often meetings where a Board member may commend a resident on their comment and how the comment was relevant to the proposal. Unfortunately, the vote had already been taken.

This amendment will give residents the right to speak on a particular item at a time when the discussion of an item is still a viable matter. That is, the right to speak and offer comment on matters that affect them, before a Board has voted. In this way, a Board will have the benefit of hearing more than one side of an issue, not just the proponent but also those affected by such proposal. A Board must listen to more than just the proponent of a proposal.

#### **ARTICLE 27:** (by petition)

To see if the residents of this Town will vote to amend Chapter 189 of the Town Code, Division 2 Selectmen’s Regulations, as set forth below:

*Amend Section 189-1 Meetings, subdivision C, paragraph (4), as follows*

(4) Although the press and the public have the right to be present at any open meeting, they have no right to participate unless they are recognized by the Chairman. Except for procedural and housekeeping matters, Town

residents shall have the right to address the Board on any item that requires a vote at a time before the Select Board votes on that item. Such residents will be allowed as much time as the proponent of an item is permitted to have.

*Purpose of the Amendment:* Under current law and procedure, residents have the right to speak at a public hearing or on a special permit or during Citizen Speak at the end of an evening's meeting or when recognized by the Chair of the Select Board. There are often items on the agenda of a public meeting for which the Select Board will have a discussion and vote. The Select Board allows the proponent of an item to present its proposal and to present evidence and testimony relative to such proposal. During and after such presentation, the Select Board may ask questions of the proponent. Rarely does the Select Board allow residents the right to speak at that time, before a vote on the item. Residents may speak as of right during the Citizen Speak portion at the end of a meeting. But this may be of little consequence to the merits of a proposal as a vote has already been taken. As an example there was a recent meeting where a Board member commended the resident on their commitment and how the comment was relevant to the proposal. Unfortunately, the vote has already been taken.

This Amendment will give residents the right to speak on a particular item at a time when the discussion of an item is still a viable matter. That is, the right to speak and offer comment on matters that affect them, before the Board has voted. In this way, the Board will have the benefit of hearing more than one side of an issue, not just the proponent but also those affected by such proposal. The Board must listen to more than just the proponent of a proposal.

#### **ARTICLE 28:** (by petition)

#### **Resolution to Prohibit Hazardous and Toxic Waste Storage, Disposal, or Dumping in Great Barrington MA**

To see if the Town of Great Barrington will vote to approve the following resolution:

Whereas the storage and disposal of hazardous and toxic waste, including PCB's from a variety of sources to include the "Rest of River" cleanup by GE is deleterious to the health of all life;

Whereas the storage and disposal of such waste is antithetical to the Food Sovereignty and Pollinator Friendly resolutions as adopted by the Town of Great Barrington;

Whereas we have sovereign rights as promulgated and protected under the Constitution of the United States of America, among them Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Without our health, healthy water, land and air, we are denied those inalienable rights;

Therefore, we, the citizens of the Town of Great Barrington, do here by adopt this resolution that prohibits the disposal, dumping or storage of hazardous and toxic waste from any source on the land or in the water in the Town of Great Barrington (including Housatonic) under any circumstances to ensure our rights and the rights of future generations to a healthy life.

#### **ARTICLE 29:** (by petition)

We the undersigned voters of Great Barrington request to have the following Article included in the warrant for 2020 Annual Town Meeting:

Article:

We the people of Great Barrington hereby mandate that the Town maintain Lake Mansfield Road as a two-way vehicular road from end to end in perpetuity, effective immediately.

**ARTICLE 30:** (by petition)

We sign this petition to close down and outlaw all privately owned “prisons-for-profit” state-wide in MA. These institutions are literally ruining the lives of countless inmates (and their loved ones), whereas properly run and supported State correctional facilities do help rehabilitate people giving them hope in the present, and futures they can look forward to, namely, the chance to contribute to society and live more and more meaningful lives for themselves and others.

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
AT MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
PARKING LOT (OUTSIDE MEETING) 600 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD  
JUNE 22, 2020 AT 6:00 PM  
MINUTES**

In pursuance of the foregoing warrant the inhabitants of the Town of Great Barrington qualified to vote in Town Meetings proceeded to vote at the above named meeting place

with the following results. The meeting was duly called to order at 6:04 P.M. by Moderator Michael Wise who welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting. He noted that he hoped to conclude all business this evening. Mr. Wise stated that there was a quorum present and noted the return and service of the warrant. He announced that the meeting is being taped for broadcast at a later date and any use of social media during the meeting is prohibited. He also asked that cell phones be shut off as well. Mr. Wise requested that everyone stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wise introduced the Town Officials seated on the stage; Town Clerk Jennifer Messina, Town Counsel David Doneski, Town Manager Mark Pruhenski and Finance Director Susan Carmel. He also announced the Selectboard and Finance Committee members were also seated on each side of the stage.

The rules of the meeting were explained by Mr. Wise. The meeting will be governed by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Bylaws of the Town of Great Barrington and Town Meeting Time. Only registered voters of the town may participate in the meeting unless permission is granted by the moderator. Before anyone addresses the Town Meeting, he/she must proceed to the microphone and when recognized by the moderator state their name and address. Mr. Wise requested that voters speak only once per motion and limit their comments to three minutes. Comments should be limited to the merits of the motion and should not be repeated. All motions and amendments must be made in writing and any motion to reconsider must be made within 15 minutes of the announced vote. All questions are to be addressed to the moderator who will ask the appropriate person to respond. Each voter has received a warrant, a green card and a packet of yes/no cards. Mr. Wise will instruct voters when these are to be used and what color to use if needed. He noted that a counter has been assigned to each section of the parking lot and they will report their numbers at the microphone when ready.

A motion was made by Mr. Wise, seconded by Stephen Bannon to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

**VOTED AT 6:12 PM**

Steve Farina made a motion to reconvene the Annual Town Meeting to July 20, 2020 and Mr. Wise ruled him out of order.

Mr. Wise introduced Town Manager Mark Pruhenski who went through a handout of an overview of the budget.

**ARTICLE 1:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town set the FY2021 spending limits for Town revolving funds as set forth in the Warrant, namely, Plumbing Inspections \$15,000, Wiring Inspections \$55,000, Gas Inspections \$12,000, and Cemetery \$5,000.

**VOTED AT 6:21 PM**

**ARTICLE 2:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town fix the salaries of all elected officials for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 as indicated below:

Elected Officials' Salaries:

Selectboard: \$18,750 (\$3,750 per Selectboard member)

The following people spoke on this article:

Douglas Stephenson

Steve Farina

**VOTED AT 6:25 PM**

**ARTICLE 3:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Stephen Bannon, that the Town accept any and all funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Transportation (MassDOT), under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of town ways and bridges.

**VOTED AT 6:26 PM**

**ARTICLE 4:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Stephen Bannon, that the Town raise and appropriate such sums of money necessary for the operation of departments in the Town for the ensuing fiscal year for the purposes outlined below:

**General Government**

Town Manager/Selectboard	\$414,427
Finance Committee/Reserve Fund	253,300
Finance Director/Town Accountant	146,550
Technology	215,150
Assessors' Office	154,575
Treasurer/Collector	208,437
Town Clerk/Elections	130,698
Conservation Commission	30,685
Various Boards/Commission	19,970
Planning Board	5,250
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,300
Office of Planning/Community Development	134,850

**Public Safety**

Police Department	1,723,347
Fire Department	624,496
Communications/Emergency Management	21,103
Building Inspector	167,013
Animal Control	12,520
<b><u>Department of Public Works</u></b>	<b>2,308,258</b>
<b><u>Public Health</u></b>	
Health Department	117,775
<b><u>Community Services</u></b>	
Council on Aging	147,161
Veterans' Affairs	143,700
Human Services	25,000
<b><u>Cultural/Recreation</u></b>	
Libraries	559,958
Parks/Recreation	115,000
<b><u>Miscellaneous</u></b>	
Insurance	1,765,452
Debt Service	1,803,116
Retirement	965,411
Celebrations/Seasonal/Events/Band Programs	9,000
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$ 12,223,502</b>

The Moderator then stated he would go line by line and if there were any holds for the voters to call out and then we would vote on all non-held items, after which we would have discussions on the held items.

The held items were:

General Government: No discussion on this item.

Public Safety:

**Police Department**- Sharon Gregory spoke about union negotiations. Town Manager Mark Pruhenski spoke regarding this matter and explained the current status of them.

The following people also spoke regarding the Police Department budget: Mae Whaley, Steve Farina, Eugene Warford, Peter Franck, Christopher Ryan, Finance Director Susan Carmel, Stephen Bannon, Arielle Woolis-Pink, Leigh Davis, Abby Schroeder and Mikaela Mintz spoke on this item.

Ms. Mintz made a motion to reduce the police department budget by \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021. Someone in the audience seconded the motion.

The Moderator asked for a vote on the amendment.

#### **AMENDMENT FAILED AT 7:15 PM**

The following people also spoke on the Police Department budget: Jeffrey Lowenstein, Jimmy Brown, Steve Farina, Police Chief William Walsh and Sergeant Adam Carlotto.

Mr. Lowenstein made a motion to amend Article 4 of the warrant to reduce the police department line item by \$36,000 by reducing line item 94 by \$30,000 and line item 104 by \$6,000 and to increase the human services budget by \$36,000 to fund organizations including but not limited to the Berkshire County branch of NAACP, The Brien Center, Berkshire South Community Center, Community Health Programs, Railroad Street Youth

Project, Berkshire Community Action Council, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Multicultural BRIDGE and Literacy Network of Southern Berkshire. Someone in the audience seconded the motion.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this amendment.

**AMENDMENT FAILED AT 7:28 PM**

**Fire Department-** Mary Beth Merritt, Daniel Bailly, Jennifer Clark, James Stark, Charles Williamson and Fire Chief Charles Burger spoke on this item.

Department of Public Works: No discussion on this item.

Public Health: No discussion on this item.

Community Services: No discussion on this item.

Cultural/Recreation: No discussion on this item.

Miscellaneous: No discussion on this item.

Steve Farina wanted to put a hold on the proposed budget altogether and debate about a 1/12 budget for the start of FY'21.

Town Manager Mark Pruhenski and Finance Director Susan Carmel discussed the process for a 1/12 budget.

The following people spoke on this item:

Quinn Abrams

Karen Smith

Richard Petrino

No motion was made to propose a 1/12 budget.

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the whole article as originally presented.

**VOTED AT 7:49 PM**

**ARTICLE 5:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town appropriate from the receipts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant such sums of money necessary for the operation of the Sewer Division for the ensuing fiscal year for the purposes outlined below.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Salaries	\$ 473,967
Expenses	690,800
Insurance/Benefits	306,974
Miscellaneous/Transfers	180,000
Debt Service	<u>671,232</u>
<b>Total Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget</b>	<b>\$2,322,973</b>

The following people spoke on this article:

Jimmy Brown

James Stark

Mary Beth Merritt

Finance Director Susan Carmel

DPW Superintendent Sean VanDeusen

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the whole article.

**VOTED AT 7:54 PM**

**ARTICLE 6:** (2/3 majority secret ballot)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Stephen Bannon, hat the sum of \$3,628,500 is appropriated to pay costs of undertaking various capital projects, and acquiring various items of capital equipment, as follows:

(i) making various street and bridge improvements at an approximate cost of \$2,315,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow \$1,775,000 under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) , or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and \$420,000 shall be transferred from Chapter 90 funds, so-called, and \$120,000 shall be transferred from available grant funds.

(ii) making various building improvements at an approximate cost of \$500,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(iii) purchasing and equipping two new police cruisers at a cost of approximately \$127,500, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(iv) acquiring (6) new portable radios for the Police Department at an approximate cost of \$46,500, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor

(v) acquiring a new police speed trailer at an approximate cost of \$12,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(vi) acquiring a new EMS/Service vehicle for the Fire Department at an approximate cost of \$60,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(vii) acquiring a new 'Jaws of Life' apparatus for the Fire Department at an approximate cost of \$25,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(viii) acquiring a new thermal camera for the Fire Department at an approximate cost of \$10,500, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(ix) acquiring (1) new dump truck with plow and sander at a cost of approximately \$230,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(x) acquiring a new roadside mower at an approximate cost of \$180,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(xi) acquiring (2) new mowers at an approximate cost of \$32,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.



(xii) acquiring a new one-ton roller at an approximate cost of \$30,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(xiii) acquiring new parks equipment at an approximate cost of \$60,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

The amounts authorized to be borrowed by this vote are necessarily estimates, and as such, the Selectboard is authorized to borrow more for any project and less for another, so long as, in its judgment, each project to be funded in whole or in part by a borrowing can be completed within the total amount authorized to be expended by this vote. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

The Moderator then read each item within the article and asked that voters yell out if there were any holds for discussion.

The following items had holds:

Streets & Bridges: Steve Farina, Assistant Town Manager Christopher Rembold, Finance Director Susan Carmel, Mary Beth Merritt, Stephen Bannon and Jeremy Higa spoke on this item.

Police Cruisers: Dimitrios Koufis made a motion to remove the 2 police cruisers at \$127,500 from Article 6 (iii) and it was seconded from someone in the audience.

Sergeant Adam Carlotto and Police Chief William Walsh spoke on this article.

The Moderator asked for a vote on the amendment.

#### **AMENDMENT FAILED AT 8:13 PM**

Police Portable Radios: Samuel Banks, Sergeant Adam Carlotto and Police Chief William Walsh.

Police Speed Trailer: Charles Williamson and Sergeant Adam Carlotto spoke on this article.

EMS/Service Vehicle: Charles Williamson and Fire Chief Charles Burger spoke on this article.

Dump Truck: Steve Farina spoke on this article.

One-Ton Roller: Charles Williamson and DPW Superintendent Sean VanDeusen spoke on this article.

The Moderator then stated this article had to be by secret ballot and a 2/3rds majority, he then asked for voters to go to the ballot boxes using their pink yes/no cards.

#### **VOTED by 2/3rds SECRET BALLOT AT 8:35 PM**

**YES – 144      NO – 61**

#### **ARTICLE 7: (majority)**

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Stephen Bannon, that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Million, Sixty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Four Dollars (\$17,064,184) for the operating assessment, and Five Hundred Three Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$503,160) for the capital assessment, for a total assessment of Seventeen Million, Five Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Four Dollars (\$17,567,344) of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

School Superintendent, Peter Dillon then went through the handout that was given to the voters on the school budget.

The following people spoke on this article:

Charles Williamson

Peter Dillon

**VOTED AT 8:30 PM**

Seeing the count for Article 6 was still being done, the Moderator made a motion to move to Article 9. This was seconded by someone in the audience.

**VOTED to move to Article 9 AT 8:30 PM**

**ARTICLE 8:** (2/3 majority secret ballot)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by someone in the audience, That the sum of \$690,000 is appropriated to pay costs of undertaking various capital projects and acquiring capital equipment in the Wastewater Department, as follows:

(i) conducting an inflow and infiltration study at an approximate cost of \$200,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(ii) replacing the sewer line at Main and Maple Streets at an approximate cost of \$400,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §8(14), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(iii) acquiring a new service truck with plow and sander and crane for the Wastewater Department at an approximate cost of \$90,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

The amounts authorized to be borrowed by this vote are necessarily estimates, and as such, the Selectboard is authorized to borrow more for any project and less for another, so long as, in its judgment, each project to be funded in whole or in part by a borrowing can be completed within the total amount authorized to be expended by this vote. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Charles Williamson spoke on this article.

Michael Wise then stated this article had to be by secret ballot and a 2/3rds majority, he then asked for voters to go to the ballot boxes using their beige yes/no cards.

**VOTED by 2/3rds SECRET BALLOT AT 8:39 PM**

**YES – 148    NO – 29**

**ARTICLE 9:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town authorize the use of \$2,344,000 in Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2021.

Steve Farina made a motion to reduce the Free Cash amount to \$2 million dollars and it was seconded by Mark Dufault.

The following people spoke on this amendment:

Stephen Bannon Susan Carmel

The Moderator asked for a vote on the amendment.

**AMENDMENT FAILED AT 8:34 PM**

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the article as originally presented.

**VOTED AT 8:34 PM**

**ARTICLE 10:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town appropriate and authorize the use of \$185,000 in Free Cash, representing amounts received under host community agreements with marijuana establishments, to fund various community programs under an application and approval process to be administered by the Town Manager.

The following people spoke on this article:

Mark Pruhenski

Douglas Stephenson

Susan Carmel

David Doneski

Peter Franck

Charles Williamson

Stephen Bannon

**VOTED AT 8:47 PM**

**ARTICLE 11 :** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town raise and appropriate \$42,000 to support the operation of the Southern Berkshire Ambulance service (Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad, Inc.).

Gregory Ward spoke on this article.

**VOTED AT 8:49 PM**

**ARTICLE 12:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Stephen Bannon, that the Town appropriate and authorize the use of \$100,315 from Free Cash to fund the Fiscal Year 2020 tuition and transportation costs for out of district vocational education, in accordance with Chapter 74 of Massachusetts General Laws.

Peter Dillon spoke on this article.

**VOTED AT 8:52 PM**

**ARTICLE 13:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town raise and appropriate \$123,000 to fund the Fiscal Year 2021 tuition and transportation costs for out of district vocational education, in accordance with Chapter 74 of Massachusetts General Laws.

The following people spoke on this article:

Mary Beth Merritt	Peter Dillon	Anne O'Dwyer
Stephen Bannon	Gabrielle Senza	Frederick Clark
Peter Franck	Leigh Davis	

**VOTED AT 9:05 PM**

**ARTICLE 14:** (4/5 majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town authorize the payment of prior fiscal year invoices from the FY20 operating budgets of various departments, as follows:

KP Law	\$3,410.28	01122-53020	Selectboard/Town Manager: Legal Fees
Staples	\$ 168.37	01146-54200	Treasurer: Supplies
Technology	\$ 712.80	01136-52470	Technology: Repair/Maintenance

**VOTED AT 9:06 PM**

**UNANIMOUS**

**ARTICLE 15:** (2/3 majority secret ballot)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town amend the vote under Article 4 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held on May 1, 2017, which action, among other things, approved the borrowing of \$70,000 to pay costs of public safety communication improvements, so as to permit the expenditure of \$20,000 authorized for that purpose, but which is not necessary for the completion of that project, to pay costs of engineering and planning related to installing a broadband cable in the Housatonic area of Town.

The Moderator stated this article had to be by secret ballot and a 2/3rds majority, he then asked for voters to go to the ballot boxes using their yellow yes/no cards.

**VOTED by 2/3rds SECRET BALLOT AT 9:48 PM**

**YES – 120    NO – 7**

**ARTICLE 16:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town amend each prior vote of the Town that authorized the borrowing of money to pay costs of capital projects to provide that, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes pursuant to such votes, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs, and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

Finance Director Susan Carmel spoke on this article.

**VOTED AT 9:09 PM**

**ARTICLE 17:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O'Dwyer and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town amend the vote under Article 8 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$650,000 for capital improvements to the Housatonic School including the costs of a new roof, windows and masonry work, by revising the amounts authorized to be transferred for such appropriation as follows: increase the amount to be transferred from the Sale of Real Estate Fund (Bryant and Searles Schools) from \$300,000 to \$350,000 and decrease the amount to be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund from \$350,000 to \$300,000.

**VOTED AT 9:10 PM**

**ARTICLE 18:** (majority)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Karen Smith, That the Town appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses in FY21, and reserve for future appropriation for community preservation projects the following reserve amounts, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Reserves:

From FY21 revenues for historic resources reserve	\$ 50,000
From FY21 revenues for community housing reserve	\$ 50,000
From FY21 revenues for open space reserve	\$ 50,000

Appropriations:

From FY21 revenues for administrative expenses	\$ 20,000
Balance of FY21 revenues for FY21 budgeted reserve	\$ 345,000

Assistant Town Manager Christopher Rembold spoke on this article.

**VOTED AT 9:13 PM**

**ARTICLE 19:** (majority)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Karen Smith, That the Town appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund for FY21 the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

		Source of Appropriation	
Project	Total Appropriation	FY21 Revenues	Fund Balance
<i>Affordable Housing</i>			
1 CDC of South Berkshire, to create new housing at 910 Main Street	\$250,000	\$250,000	
2 Town Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to acquire land for housing	\$185,000		\$185,000
Subtotal, Affordable Housing	\$435,000		
<i>HISTORIC RESOURCES</i>			
3 Town Historical Commission, for historic properties research in Housatonic Village	\$15,000		\$15,000
4 Town Historical Commission, to preserve the historic trolley shelter	\$50,000		\$50,000

5	Historical Society, to restore and preserve Wheeler museum buildings and artifacts	\$145,000	\$145,000	
	Subtotal, Historic Resources	\$210,000		
	<i>OPEN SPACE &amp; RECREATION</i>			
6	Berkshire Natural Resources Council, to create public access/trailhead improvements	\$30,000	\$30,000	
7	Conservation Commission for the McAllister Wildlife Refuge preservation project	\$33,500	\$33,500	
8	Lake Mansfield Road design to preserve open space / create recreational land	\$120,000		\$120,000
	Subtotal, Open Space & Recreation	\$183,500		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$828,500</b>	<b>\$458,500</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>

The Moderator read each line item and asked for voters to yell out if they want a hold for discussion on any item.

The following item had a hold:

#2 Town Affordable Housing Trust Fund- Daniel Bailly spoke on this item. Mr. Bailly made a motion to divide this one out of the article and table it. Someone in the audience seconded it.

The following people spoke on this amendment:

Eugene Warford William Cooke  
Deborah Phillips

Frederick Clark

Edward Szwyd

Leigh Davis

Garfield Reed

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the amendment.

**AMENDMENT FAILED AT 9:38 PM**

**YES- 58 NO-73**

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the article as originally presented.

**VOTED AT 9:44 PM**

**ARTICLE 20:** (majority)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town amend the vote taken under Article 13 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held on May 6, 2019, which approved the appropriation of \$100,000 from FY20 Community Preservation Act revenues to the Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of down payment assistance, so as to permit the expenditure of said appropriation for either down payment assistance or for rental assistance.

Assistant Town Manager Christopher Rembold spoke on this article.

**VOTED AT 9:47 PM**

**ARTICLE 21:** (majority)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire certain easements and/or property through all legal means including donation, purchase, or eminent domain, in order to implement a wastewater pump station upgrades project, including construction of four new pump stations, with such areas being at the following locations: Cone Avenue; Rising Mill area; the Fairgrounds; the Senior Center, as more particularly shown on plans entitled “Wastewater Pump Station Upgrades Project,” prepared by DPC Engineering, LLC, Longmeadow, MA, October 2019, and which are on file with the Town Clerk.

Assistant Town Manager Christopher Rembold spoke on this article.

**VOTED AT 9:51 PM**

Michelle Loubert addressed the Moderator with concerns that there was no longer a quorum and after counting he agreed.

**On a motion by Steve Farina and seconded by Michelle Loubert, that the Town Meeting adjourn and continue to June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the same location.**

**VOTED AT 9:53 PM**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM.**

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
AT MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
PARKING LOT (OUTSIDE MEETING) 600 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD  
JUNE 25, 2020 AT 6:00 PM  
MINUTES – Night Two**

In pursuance of the foregoing warrant the inhabitants of the Town of Great Barrington qualified to vote in Town Meetings proceeded to vote at the above named meeting place

with the following results. The meeting was duly called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Moderator Michael Wise who welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting. He noted that he hoped to conclude all business this evening. Mr. Wise stated that there was a quorum present and noted the return and service of the warrant. He announced that the meeting is being taped for broadcast at a later date and any use of social media during the meeting is prohibited.

The rules of the meeting were explained by Mr. Wise. The meeting will be governed by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Bylaws of the Town of Great Barrington and Town Meeting Time. Only registered voters of the town may participate in the meeting unless permission is granted by the moderator. Before anyone addresses the Town Meeting, he/she must proceed to the microphone and when recognized by the moderator state their name and address. Mr. Wise requested that voters speak only once per motion and limit their comments to three minutes. Comments should be limited to the merits of the motion and should not be repeated. All motions and amendments must be made in writing and any motion to reconsider must be made within 15 minutes of the announced vote. All questions are to be addressed to the moderator who will ask the appropriate person to respond. Each voter has received a warrant, a yellow card and a packet of yes/no cards. Mr. Wise will instruct voters when these are to be used and what color to use if needed but he doubted they would be needed. He noted that a counter has been assigned to each section of the parking lot and they will report their numbers at the microphone when ready.

A motion was made by Mr. Wise, seconded by someone in the audience to dispense with the continuing of the warrant beginning with article 22.

**VOTED AT 6:06 PM**

**ARTICLE 22:** (2/3 majority, Zoning by Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned voters of Great Barrington hereby request the following modifications to Section 8.4 of the Zoning Bylaw, to be added to the Warrant at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. These same modifications regarding Mixed Use Development (MXD) were put forth by the GB Planning Board at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting and approved by an overwhelming majority of voters. The Town vote was subsequently overturned by the Massachusetts Attorney General due to a procedural error, based on the Town's failure to present the required publication of the Amendment prior to the vote.

We are hereby submitting and requesting for the 2020 Warrant that the language contained in the 2019 Warrant Amendment be voted on again. To note, this is the *identical* language that was endorsed by Select Board and Planning Board in 2019, and approved by the Town of Great Barrington voters at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting:

Article 21, Amendment 6, Section 8.4 of the Zoning Bylaw:

*6. Amend portions of Section 8.4, mixed use development, as follows*

**8.4.3 General.** ~~For mixed uses in the B, B2, I, and I2 zones, all of the following requirements shall apply. For mixed uses in the B3 zone, see Section 9.4. For mixed uses in the HVC and HVOD zones, see Sections 9.9 and 9.10 respectively. For mixed uses in MXD zones, see Section 9.11. The requirements of this section shall apply to mixed use development. Where zoning districts have requirements that conflict with this section, the requirements of the applicable zoning district shall prevail.~~

**8.4.4 Requirements.**

3. When residential use is combined with other nonresidential permitted uses, the controlling dimensional requirements shall be the less restrictive. For the multifamily component of a mixed use development there shall be at least 2,500 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit. The Selectboard may, by special permit, reduce the lot area per unit requirement.

~~A portion of the street level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use. Inside the Village Center Overlay District, this portion shall be a minimum of 75%. Inside the Village Center Overlay District, a minimum of 75% of street-level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use. Outside the Village Center Overlay District, a minimum of 25% of street-level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use. The Selectboard may, by special permit, reduce the nonresidential space requirement.~~

On a motion by Barbara Matz and seconded by Michael Kernan, that the modifications above be added to Section 8.4 of the Zoning Bylaw.

Barbara Matz spoke on this article. The following people also spoke on this article:

Pedro Pachano   Brandee Nelson                      Michael Kernan                      Jonathan Hankin                      Steve Farina

The Moderator asked if the Planning Board had a hearing on this matter and Brandee Nelson, Planning Board Chair, said yes. She said they wanted to put it back on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting that was going to be held later on this year.

The Moderator for asked for a vote on this article. He asked the tellers to count the slips when he asked for the yes or no vote. There was an issue the first time with the counting by the tellers as a whole row of voters was missed so it had to be counted a second time.

**FAILED AT 6:31 PM**

**YES- 45   NO-82**



**ARTICLE 23:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

To ask Town residents to vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §9.11 as set forth below, and to amend the Zoning Map accordingly:

*1. Amend a portion of Section 9.11, Mixed Use Traditional Zone (MXD) as follows:*

**9.11.2 Location.** The MXD shall consist of the land shown on the ~~2015~~ 2016 Town of Great Barrington Assessors' Map 22 as Parcels 2, 3A, ~~4-13~~ 4-6, ~~18-63~~ 63, ~~66-88~~ 66-72, 81-88, 88A and on Map 25 as Parcels 1-4.

*2. Amend the Zoning Map by placing the following parcels in a R3 zone, as follows: the land shown on the 2016 Town of Great Barrington Assessors' Map 22 as Parcels 7-13, 18-62, 73-80.*

Purpose of the Amendment: At the 2016 Annual Town Meeting the Town Planning Board put through a proposal that created the MXD zone. The stated purpose of the 2016 proposal cites "the recommendations of the 2013 Master Plan to update the zoning in certain commercial areas within walking distance of a village center, to preserve and enhance the mix of residential and retail uses, and to reflect the context of the built fabric." This MXD zone does not accomplish its stated purposes. It joins together two drastically different neighborhoods: the Mahaiwe Triangle (mostly residential parcels on Pope, Mahaiwe and Manville Streets, and 14 residential parcels along nearby Main Street) with commercial parcels west of Maple Avenue and south of Manville Street. The Mahaiwe Triangle is not a commercial area; it consists of one-family residences 60-120 years old with a smattering of houses legally converted into two-family and professional space.

As two separate pending lawsuits are demonstrating, this MXD zone has created a loophole by which land developers are acting without any effective zoning regulations. By examining the Table of Use Regulations in Zoning Bylaw §4.1.2, it is appropriate to place the Mahaiwe Triangle in a R3 Zone.

	Min lot	Width	Front	Side	Rear	Bldg %	Story	Height
R3	5000	50	25	10	30	25	2.5	35
B2	43,560	50	50	20	30	25-40	2.5	35
MXD	5000	50	15	10	10	75	3.5	40

Brandee Nelson and Steve Farina spoke on this article.

On a motion by Michael Kernan and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

**VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:38 PM**

**ARTICLE 24:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned, seek a zoning change to the i2 zoning district.

Under use regulations 3.0c section 13 (marijuana establishment and Manufacturing) in the i2 Zone. The current zoning is listed as a no. We would ask the planning board to change this to a SB zone.

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

**VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:38 PM**

## **ARTICLE 25:** (Zoning by Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned submit this citizen's petition to the voters of the Town of Great Barrington:

To see if the Town will vote to amend sections 7.18.4 and 7.18.5 of the Great Barrington Zoning bylaw 7.18 Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and modify section 3.1.4 Table of Uses accordingly or to take any other action relative thereto.

Purpose of the Amendment: The undersigned propose this amendment in response to the concerns expressed by some residents in numerous public meetings and forums as to the negative impacts of marijuana businesses in our community, particularly those located or proposed to be located in or near our residential neighborhoods. Our Master Plan states, "Great Barrington's vision includes protecting and enhancing our compact village centers, historic treasures, natural resources, farms, and open spaces, all of which contribute to Great Barrington's distinctive character. Our goals include directing development and growth into village centers, supporting existing residential neighborhoods, and ensuring that new developments in resource areas are sited and build it in a way that sustains our rural countryside and agricultural areas."

The Master Plan further states, "Residents expect and deserve quiet neighborhoods free from odor, glare, noise and other impacts of commercial activity. Proper buffering and design standards can help ensure business remains healthy and residential property values remain stable, while still encouraging concentration of development in the core areas." The undersigned bring forward the below changes to Zoning by law 7.18 in an effort to better align this bylaw and the Table of Uses with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan.

Proposed deletions of existing text are ~~struck through~~.

Proposed insertions are underlined.

*Amend Portions of Section 7.18.4 as follows:*

**7.18.4. Locational requirements.** Marijuana establishments may be located in accordance with Section 3.1.4, Table of Use Regulations, except as follows:

1. No marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center may be located closer than ~~200~~ 500 feet from a preexisting public or private school providing education in Kindergarten or any of Grades 1 through 12 child care facility, including preschools and daycare centers, or any facility in which children commonly congregate, including, but not limited to, a public library, a playground or park, and athletic field or recreational facility, a place of worship, or a town-owned beach.

2. The distance in paragraph 1 is to be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the property line of the proposed marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center and the nearest point of the property line of the protected uses stated above in paragraph 1.

3. The Selectboard may, by special permit pursuant to Section 10.4, authorize a deviation from this distance requirement if it finds the marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center will not be detrimental to a protected use.

4. No Marijuana Establishment of Medical Establishment of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center will be allowed in any Residential District as described in Section 2.0 of the Zoning Bylaws.

4. 5. Other types of marijuana establishments licensed by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission may be permitted in accordance with the appropriate use category in the Table of Use Regulations.

*2. Amend portions of Section 7.18.5 as follows:*

**7.18.5. Physical Requirements.** In addition to pertinent requirements of implementing regulations of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Marijuana establishments and medical marijuana treatment centers shall comply with the following:

1. All aspects of a marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center relative to the acquisition, cultivation, possession, processing, sales, distribution, dispensing, or administration of marijuana, products containing marijuana, marijuana accessories, related supplies, or educational materials shall take place at a fixed

location within a fully enclosed building or fenced area dedicated to the cultivation of marijuana and shall not be visible from the exterior of the business.

2. No unprotected storage of marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials is permitted.

3. No use shall be allowed by a Marijuana Establishment of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center which creates a nuisance to abutters of the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard, including but not limited to fire, explosion, fumes, gas, smoke, odors, obnoxious dust, vapors, offensive sound or vibration, flashes, glare, objectionable effluent or electrical interference, which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.

4. No odor from marijuana or its processing can be detected by a person with an unimpaired and otherwise normal sense of smell at the exterior of a Marijuana Establishment or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center or at any adjoining use of property.

5. No noise from the establishment of its operations, including but not limited to ventilation, can be detected by a person with unimpaired and otherwise normal hearing at the exterior of a Marijuana Establishment of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center or at any adjoining use or property.”

6. Marijuana Establishments or Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers with grow operations in a translucent building shall not illuminate grow operations between dusk and dawn.

~~3.~~ 7. Marijuana not grown inside a securable structure shall be enclosed within a six-foot fence, and inasmuch as possible the plants shall be screened from view, at grade, from a public way or from a protected use.

~~4.~~ 8. No outdoor cultivation of marijuana shall be allowed within ~~fifty (50)~~ two hundred (200) feet of any property line.

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

**VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:40 PM**

## **ARTICLE 26:** (Citizen Petition)

To see if the residents of this Town will vote to amend Chapter 241 of the Town Code, Division 3 Miscellaneous Rules and Regulations, as set forth below:

### *2. Amend Section 241-1 **Placement on Agenda**, as follows:*

Every Great Barrington committee or board, whether appointed or elected, shall place on their agenda of public meetings an item for citizen speak time. Except for procedural and housekeeping matters, Town residents shall have the right to address a Board on any item that requires a vote at a time before a Board votes on that item. Such residents will be allowed as much time as the proponent of an item is permitted to have.

*Purpose of the Amendment:* Under current law and procedure, residents have the right to speak at a public hearing or on a special permit or during Citizen Speak at the end of the evening’s meeting or when recognized by the Chair of a Board. There are often items on the agenda of a public meeting for which a Board will have a discussion and vote. Each Board allows the proponent of an item to present its proposal and to present evidence and testimony relative to such proposal. During and after such presentation, a Board may ask questions of the proponent. Rarely does a Board allow residents the right to speak at that time, before a vote on the item. Residents may speak as of right during the Citizen Speak portion at the end of a meeting. But this may be of little consequence to the merits of a proposal as a vote has already been taken. There are often meetings where

a Board member may commend a resident on their comment and how the comment was relevant to the proposal. Unfortunately, the vote had already been taken.

This amendment will give residents the right to speak on a particular item at a time when the discussion of an item is still a viable matter. That is, the right to speak and offer comment on matters that affect them, before a Board has voted. In this way, a Board will have the benefit of hearing more than one side of an issue, not just the proponent but also those affected by such proposal. A Board must listen to more than just the proponent of a proposal.

On a motion by Michael Kernan and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

**VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:42 PM**

**ARTICLE 27:** (Citizen Petition)

To see if the residents of this Town will vote to amend Chapter 189 of the Town Code, Division 2 Selectmen's Regulations, as set forth below:

*Amend Section 189-1 Meetings, subdivision C, paragraph (4), as follows*

(4) Although the press and the public have the right to be present at any open meeting, they have no right to participate unless they are recognized by the Chairman. Except for procedural and housekeeping matters, Town residents shall have the right to address the Board on any item that requires a vote at a time before the Select Board votes on that item. Such residents will be allowed as much time as the proponent of an item is permitted to have.

*Purpose of the Amendment:* Under current law and procedure, residents have the right to speak at a public hearing or on a special permit or during Citizen Speak at the end of an evening's meeting or when recognized by the Chair of the Select Board. There are often items on the agenda of a public meeting for which the Select Board will have a discussion and vote. The Select Board allows the proponent of an item to present its proposal and to present evidence and testimony relative to such proposal. During and after such presentation, the Select Board may ask questions of the proponent. Rarely does the Select Board allow residents the right to speak at that time, before a vote on the item. Residents may speak as of right during the Citizen Speak portion at the end of a meeting. But this may be of little consequence to the merits of a proposal as a vote has already been taken. As an example there was a recent meeting where a Board member commended the resident on their commitment and how the comment was relevant to the proposal. Unfortunately, the vote has already been taken.

This Amendment will give residents the right to speak on a particular item at a time when the discussion of an item is still a viable matter. That is, the right to speak and offer comment on matters that affect them, before the Board has voted. In this way, the Board will have the benefit of hearing more than one side of an issue, not just the proponent but also those affected by such proposal. The Board must listen to more than just the proponent of a proposal.

On a motion by Michael Kernan and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

**VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:44 PM**

**ARTICLE 28:** (Citizen Petition)

## **Resolution to Prohibit Hazardous and Toxic Waste Storage, Disposal, or Dumping in Great Barrington MA**

To see if the Town of Great Barrington will vote to approve the following resolution:

Whereas the storage and disposal of hazardous and toxic waste, including PCB's from a variety of sources to include the "Rest of River" cleanup by GE is deleterious to the health of all life;

Whereas the storage and disposal of such waste is antithetical to the Food Sovereignty and Pollinator Friendly resolutions as adopted by the Town of Great Barrington;

Whereas we have sovereign rights as promulgated and protected under the Constitution of the United States of America, among them Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Without our health, healthy water, land and air, we are denied those inalienable rights;

Therefore, we, the citizens of the Town of Great Barrington, do here by adopt this resolution that prohibits the disposal, dumping or storage of hazardous and toxic waste from any source on the land or in the water in the Town of Great Barrington (including Housatonic) under any circumstances to ensure our rights and the rights of future generations to a healthy life.

Mark Dufault spoke on this article.

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Michelle Loubert, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

### **VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:46 PM**

#### **ARTICLE 29:** (Citizen Petition)

We the undersigned voters of Great Barrington request to have the following Article included in the warrant for 2020 Annual Town Meeting:

Article:

We the people of Great Barrington hereby mandate that the Town maintain Lake Mansfield Road as a two-way vehicular road from end to end in perpetuity, effective immediately.

On a motion by Steve Farina and seconded by someone in the audience, he asked that Article 30 be discussed before Article 29 so they could have more time to discuss this article.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this motion.

### **MOTION TO VOTE ON ARTICLE 30 FIRST, PASSED AT 6:46 PM**

After the vote on Article 30, Steve Farina spoke on this article.

The following people also spoke on this article:

Christine Ward	Sally Michael	Brandee Nelson	Dale Abrams	Peter Franck
Jennifer Clark				
Eliza Abrams	Dave Ryel	Margery Kirchner	Kathy Kotleski	Jimmy Brown
Sharon Coleman				
Karen Smith	Gary Happ	Stephen Bannon	Suzanne Fowle	William Cooke

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article. He asked the tellers to count the yes/no slips.

### **FAILED AT 7:32 PM**

**YES- 20 NO- 130**

**ARTICLE 30:** (Citizen Petition)

We sign this petition to close down and outlaw all privately owned “prisons-for-profit” state-wide in MA. These institutions are literally ruining the lives of countless inmates (and their loved ones), whereas properly run and supported State correctional facilities do help rehabilitate people giving them hope in the present, and futures they can look forward to, namely, the chance to contribute to society and live more and more meaningful lives for themselves and others.

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town refer this article to the Planning Board and that the Selectboard place this article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, without any further action required of the petitioners.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this article.

**VOTED TO REFER TO NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 6:48 PM**

**Motion to adjourn by Michael Wise and seconded by someone in the audience.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:32 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Messina, Town Clerk

<b>Total Registered Voters:</b>	<b>4,910</b>
<b>Total Voters attended June 22<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	<b>257 (5.2 %)</b>
<b>Total Voters attended June 25<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>159 ( 3.2%)</b>

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES

### **All Emergencies**

**911**

Great Barrington Fire Department:	528-0788
Housatonic Fire Department	274-3391
Ambulance	528-3900
Police (non-Emergency)	528-0306
State Police	243-0600

<b><u>DEPARTMENT:</u></b>	<b><u>CONTACT:</u></b>	<b><u>TELEPHONE:</u></b>
Board of Health	Rebecca Jurczyk	528-0680
Cemeteries	Steven Larkin	528-1800
DPW Superintendent	Sean VanDeusen	528-0867
Emergency Communications	William R. Walsh, Jr.	528-0306
Fence Viewers:	Bernard Drew	528-4953
	Kurt Barbieri	528-6278
Fire Chief	Charles Burger	528-0788
Gas Inspector	Robert Gennari	274-0267
Highway	John Mulumphy	528-2500
Housatonic Community Center	Francis Tarnawa	274-8375
Housatonic Water Works Company	James Mercer	528-1780
Housing Authority	James Mercer	274-1142
Inspector of Buildings	Edwin May	528-3206
Libraries: (Mason Library, GB)	Amanda DeGiorgis	528-2403
(Ramsdell, Housatonic)		274-3738
Plumbing Inspector	Robert Krupski	229-8019
Recycling Center	Friday (8 AM - 3 PM)	528-5011
	Saturday (7 AM - 3 PM)	
	Sunday (10 AM - 3 PM)	
Schools- Berkshire Hills Regional School District		
	Monument Mountain High School	528-3346
	Monument Valley Middle	644-2300
	Muddy Brook Elementary	644-2350
School Superintendent	Peter Dillon	298-4017
Senior Center/Council on Aging	Polly Mann Salenovich	528-1881
Sewer Treatment Plant	Bill Ingram	528-0650
<b>TOWN HALL:</b>		<b>528-1619</b>
Assessor's Office	Ross Vivori	x 2300
Conservation Commission	Shepley Evans, Agent	x 2801
Selectboard	Amy Pulver	x 2900
Town Accountant	Sue Carmel	x 2500
Tax Collector/Treasurer	Alicia Dulin	x 2200
<i>*Parking Clerk, Tag Sale Permits, Tax Bills (Real Estate &amp; Motor Vehicle), Sewer Bills</i>		
Town Clerk	Jennifer Messina	x 2100
<i>*Birth/Marriage/Death Certificates, Dog Licenses, Voter Registration</i>		
Town Manager	Mark Pruhenski	x 2900
Town Planner	Christopher Rembold	x 2400
Tree Warden	Michael Peretti	528-5552
Veteran's Services	Laurie Hils	528-1580
Water Department (G.B. Fire District)	Cindy Ullrich	528-0133
Wire Inspector	Theodore Piontek	274-6605







Photo by Abigail Fredsall