

Town of Washington, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020



Photograph by Jodi Hostetter

On March 16, 2020 Select Board Chairman James A. Huebner (pictured above) signed an Emergency Declaration for the Town of Washington following Governor Charlie Baker's March 10th declaration the State of Massachusetts is in a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus Pandemic outbreak.



Town of Washington, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town Officials

2020

Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Jim Huebner

Selectmen

Tricia Drugmand

Selectmen

Richard Grillon

Selectmen

Dedications



This Annual Report of Town Officers is dedicated to our dear friend and beloved Administrative Assistant Jan Nelson whose loss has forever changed the very fabric of the Town Hall. Jan is seen above shaking hands with Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito during a broadband roundtable meeting held at the Washington Town Hall on Tuesday September 26, 2017.



This report is also dedicated to retirees and Certificate of Appreciation recipients Treasurer Glenn Grogan (left) and Accounting Officer Dan Parnell.

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Town Officers

<u>Elected Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Elected Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Board of Selectmen		Planning Board	
James Huebner, Chairman	2021	Craig Willis	2024
Patricia Drugmand, Clerk	2022	Lisa Peltier	2023
Richard Grillon	2023	Shaun Lennon	2022
CBRSD School Committee		Marilyn Wiley	2021
Michael Case	2022	Donald Gagnon	2025
Fence Drivers		Sexton	
Patricia Drugmand	2021	Richard Grillon	2023
Kermit Pruyne	2021	Sexton Assistant	
Field Drivers		Roseann Poillucci	2021
Edwin Neumuth	2021	Surveyor of Lumber	
Dominic Sinopoli	2021	Sean Connors	2023
Finance Committee		Town Clerk	
Richard Spencer	2023	Allison Mikaniewicz	2021
Sean Connors	2023	Tree Warden	
David Drugmand	2021	Craig Willis	2022
Kent Lew	2022		
Debra Megas	2022		
Measurer of Wood & Bark			
Sean Connors	2021		
Moderator			
Edwin Neumuth	2021		

Town Officers

<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
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Accounting Officer

Lynne Lemanski	2021
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Administrative Assistant

Jodi Hostetter	2021
Jan Nelson	Deceased

Assessors

Mary Jarvie	2022
Laura LaFreniere	2022

Assessors Consultant

Karen Avalor	2021
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Ballot Box Constable

Barbara Keyes	2021
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Berkshire Public Health Alliance Governing Board

James Huebner	2021
Jan Paxton	2021

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Alternate

Lisa Peltier	2025
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Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegate

Donald Gagnon	2021
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Board of Appeals

Janice Paxton	2023
Will Beemer	2021

<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
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Board of Health

James Huebner	2023
Janice Paxton	2021
Vacant	

BRTA Advisory Board

Richard Grillon	2021
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Building Inspector

Paul Greene	2021
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Building Maintenance Coordinator

Mark Roos	2021
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Chapel Commission

Rose Borgnis	2021
Kinzer Davis	2021
Tricia Drugmand	2021
Cynthia Taylor	2021
Patricia Thornton	2021

Computer Consultant

John Les	2021
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Conservation Commission

Michelle Lampro	2023
Shaun Lennon	2023
Lisa Peltier	2021
Eyal Shapira	2021
Patricia Drugmand	2022

Town Officers

<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Constables		Fire Chief	
Shaun Lennon	2021	Paul Mikaniewicz	2021
Paul Mikaniewicz	2021		
Nicole Miller	2021	Gas Inspector	
		Mark Levernoch	2021
Council on Aging		Gas Inspector Assistant	
Rose Borgnis	2021	Bill Zeiter	2021
Barbara Keyes	2021		
Janice Paxton	2021		
Jeffery Sawtelle	2021	Health Agent	
		Charlie Kaniecki, BPHA	2021
Cultural Council		Highland Footpath Representative	
Jodi Hostetter	08/24/22	Ed Neumuth	2021
Debra Connors	08/19/23		
Sean Connors	08/19/23	Highway Superintendent	
Stephanie Case	11/17/21	Tom Johnson	2021
Eyal Shapira	11/17/21		
Custodian		Highway Crew	
Cynthia Taylor	2021	Adam Southard	2020
		David Waldron	2020
Emergency Managers		Historical Commission	
Shaun Lennon	2021	Janice Paxton	2023
Paul Mikaniewicz	2021	David Weissbrod	2023
Nicole Miller	2021	Gail Ellis	2021
		Barbara Simmons	2022
Emma C. Bailey Trust Fund Committee			
Patricia Drugmand	2021		
Jodi Hostetter	2021		
Kim Sinopoli	2021		
Richard Spencer	2021		

Town Officers

<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
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Legal Counsel

Jeremia Pollard	2021
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Local Emergency Management Director

Gene Goebel	2021
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Metropolitan Planning Organization

James Huebner	2021
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MRF Advisory Board

Michelle Lampro	2021
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Municipal Liaison to the Ethics Commission

Allison Mikaniewicz	2021
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Municipal Light Plant Manager

Kent Lew	2022
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Parks Commission

David Drugmand	2021
Jodi Hostetter	2021
Edwin Neumuth	2021
Mark Roos	2021
Dominic Sinopoli	2021

Pest Control

David Fish	2021
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Plumbing Inspector

Mark Levernoch	2021
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<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
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Plumbing Inspector Assistant

Bill Zietler	2021
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Police Chief

Nicole Miller	2021
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Procurement Officer

Vacant	2021
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Public Health Nurse

Mary Agoglia RN, BPHA	2021
Brenda Hitchcock RN, BPHA	2021

Regional Housing Authority

Richard Grillon	2021
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Registrar of Voters/Board of Registrars

Michele Beemer	2022
Patricia Drugmand	2022
Barbara Simmons	2022

Right to Know Municipal Coordinator

Paul Mikaniewicz	2021
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Solid Waste Coordinator

Michelle Lampro	2021
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Tax Collector

Gina Campbell	2021
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Town Officers

<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Appointed Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Transfer Station Attendant		Web Editor	
Michelle Lampro	2021	Jodi Hostetter	2021
Jane Pytco	2021		
Andras Sala	2021		
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)(BRPC)		Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee	
Tom Johnson	2021	Edwin Neumuth	2021
Treasurer		Wired West Delegate	
Diana Sturtevant	2021	Steve Nelson	2021
Veterans Grave Officer		Wired West Alternate Delegate	
Michael Case	2023	Kent Lew	2021
Veterans Agent		Wiring Inspector	
John Herrera	2021	Dana Spring	2021
		Wiring Inspector Alternate	
		John Savery	2021

Town Volunteer Organizations

Hazard Mitigation Planning Group

Brianna Holsboro, BRPC

Jodi Hostetter

Jim Huebner

Tom Johnson

Kent Lew

Caroline Massa, BRPC

Nicole Miller

Jan Nelson

Washington Scholarship

Linda Levernoch

Marianne Clark

Washington Tracks

Lisa Guthrie

Michele Beemer

John FX Keator Memorial Pumpkin Walk

Edward E. Bond

Phebe Weiner

Tom Weiner

Sons and Daughters

Ellen Bond

Dick Grillon

Town Meetings and Office Hours

Accounting Officer	Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM	Town Hall
Assessors	Mondays 6:00-8:00 PM	Town Hall
Board of Health	Monthly	Town Hall
Building Inspector	Wednesday 1:00-2:00 PM	Town Hall
Conservation Commission	As needed	Town Hall
Council on Aging	3 rd Thursday 5:30-7:00 PM	Town Hall
Finance Committee	2nd Monday 7:00-9:00 PM	Town Hall
Parks Committee	As needed	Town Hall
Planning Board	2nd Tuesday 7:00-9:00 PM	Town Hall
Police Chief	Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM*	Town Hall
Selectmen	Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM	Town Hall
Administrative Assistant	Mondays 10:00-2:00 PM	Town Hall
	Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM	Town Hall
	Wednesdays 10:00-2:00 PM	Town Hall
	Thursdays 10:00-2:00 PM	Town Hall
St. Andrews Chapel	4th Tuesday 6:00-8:00 PM	Town Hall
Tax Collector	Mondays 6:00-8:00 PM	Town Hall
Town Clerk	Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM	Town Hall
Treasurer	Mondays 6:00-8:00 PM	Town Hall

Telephone Directory of Town Services

All Emergencies	911
Becket Fire Department	623-6480
Police Department Office	623-8345
Police Chief Cell	446-4294
Police Department Dispatch	623-5111

Town Hall Offices - (413) 623-8878

<u>Department</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Extention</u>
Accounting Officer	washington.ma.acc@gmail.com	6
Administrative Assistant	washingtonaas@gmail.com	1
Assessors	washingtonboa@gmail.com	3
Board of Health	bohjanpax@gmail.com	1
Board of Selectmen	washingtonboardofselectmen@gmail.com	1
Building Inspector	paulgreenesec@gmail.com	7
Town Clerk	washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com	2
Tax Collector	washingtontaxcollector@gmail.com	4
Treasurer	washingtontreasurer@gmail.com	5
Animal Control Officer	washingtonpdchief@gmail.com	(413) 446-4294
Chapel Commission	standrewschapelchairman@gmail.com	(413) 623-2118
Conservation Commission	michelle.lampro@gmail.com	(413) 623-8333
Council on Aging	rborgnis@gmail.com	(413) 623-6401
Cultural Council	washingtonculturalcouncil@gmail.com	(413) 207-1602
Dog Officer	washingtonpdchief@gmail.com	(413) 446-4294
Fire Chief	devbo5@yahoo.com	(413) 623-2185
Highway Department	washingtondpw@gmail.com	(413) 623-8383
Historical Commission	davidw6183@aol.com	(413) 623-0033
Parks Commission	dominic.sinopoli@gmail.com	(413) 528-1710
Planning Board	djgagnon99@gmail.com	(413) 623-5648
Plumbing and Gas Inspector	levernochplumbing@verizon.net	(413) 623-5881
Transfer Station	michelle.lampro@gmail.com	(413) 623-8333
Veterans Agent	jherrera@pittsfieldch.com	(413) 499-9433
Washington Tracks	mrsabeski@mac.com	
Washington Scholarship		(413) 623-8309
Web Editor	jlhstetter@gmail.com	(413) 464-6656
Wiring Inspector	dspring69@gmail.com	(413) 441-5135
Wiring Inspector Alternate	saverelectric@aol.com	(413) 623-8365

Important Information for use in 2021

Governor

Charlie Baker

Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston MA 02133
Phone (617) 725-4005

Western Massachusetts Office
State Office Building
436 Dwight Street, Suite 300
Springfield, MA 01103
Phone (413) 784-1200

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn Polito Phone
(617) 725-4005
Twitter @MASSLtGov or @MASSLtGov on Instagram

United States Senators

Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-4543
www.warren.senate.gov

Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-2742
www.markey.senate.gov

Congressman

Richard E. Neal
Federal Building, 78 Center Street
Pittsfield MA 01201
Phone (413) 442-0946
Washington DC (202) 225-5601

State Senator

Adam G. Hinds
24 Beacon Street
State House, Room 109-E
Boston, MA 02133
Phone (617) 722-1625
District Office (413) 344-4561

Massachusetts House of Representatives Berkshire District

William Smitty Pignatelli
Fourth Berkshire Representative District
Lenox Town Hall
P.O. Box 2228
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-0631 rep.smitty@mahouse.gov

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin

Toll Free: 1-800-392-6090 (within Massachusetts only)
Telephone: 617-727-7030
TTY: 617-878-3889 Fax: 617-742-4528 E-mail: cis@sec.state.ma.us

Town Facts

Incorporated in 1777

Annual Town Meeting 2nd Wednesday in May

Annual Town Election 3rd Saturday in May

Town Web Site:<http://www.washington-ma.com/>

County: Berkshire

Area: 38.78 Square Miles

Elevation: 1,440 at Town Center

Miles of State Highway 4.42 Miles of Town
Roads 44.81

Transfer Station Hours: Wednesday 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
 Saturday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tax Rate FY 2020: \$14.83

Residential Taxable Value: \$56,396.000.

Single Family Residences: 244

Average Single-Family Home Value FY2020: \$240,176.

Average Single-Family Tax Bill: \$3,561.81

Land Managed By Division of Forests and Parks 11,698 Acres.

School District

Central Berkshire Regional School District
254 Hinsdale Rd
Dalton MA 01227
(413)684-0320
<http://www.cbrsd.org/>

Registry of Deeds

Middle District
44 Bank Row
Pittsfield MA 01201
(413)443-7438
<http://www.masslandrecords.com/maleindex.htm>

To our neighbors in Washington:

FY2020 July 2019 to June 2020

The spring of 2020 will forever be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic which has continued to overshadow our lives.

- Washington was relatively fortunate. We had fewer than 5 reported cases and no deaths. We live in a well-dispersed community and are self-reliant by choice and habit.
- Likewise, the Berkshires, after an early wave, had relatively few cases and fatalities; the Commonwealth overall experienced a high infection rate early on but Governor Baker prioritized public health and the well-being of our citizens over economic concerns and we are now among the states with minimal additional cases.
- But in mid-2020 we are far from a return to what had been normal daily life. The emergency measures to quell the pandemic remain routine: staying in, social distancing when going out, washing our hands and covering our faces. Until a cure and treatments are available this is the “new normal” that we must follow to keep us, our loved ones and our friends and neighbors disease-free.
- Services, restaurants and recreational facilities were slowly opening but we remained aware that they could and would be closed again even if the new rules were followed and would certainly be closed if they were not.
- Two big questions remained to be answered: how and when would schools open and how would the many members of our community who have lost jobs and income be helped.

The Town made some adaptations to the new normal after the Select Board declared a state of emergency on March 16:

- The Town Hall was closed to the public
- All meetings were conducted by conference call
- The Annual Town Meeting was postponed and held in the Highway Garage to permit social distancing; the Annual Town elections were likewise postponed into June
- All Town services, including the transfer station, remained available with some new protocols to ensure safety
- Thanks to Lisa Guthrie and Michelle Beemer, extra editions of TRACKS were issued out in April and May to help keep us all informed

Changes to the Town’s administration in FY2020:

- Administrative Assistant Jan Nelson passed away after a valiant thirty-year long struggle with cancer. Jan was an integral part of our Town, also serving on the Historical Society and in many other, less formal ways.
- Mary Jarvie was appointed to support Administrative Assistant Jodi Hostetter.
- Both Town Accountant Dan Parnell and Treasurer Glenn Grogan left us; they were replaced by Lynne Lemanski as our Accountant and Diane Sturtevant as our Treasurer. Thanks to Dan and Glenn for their long years of service and for making the transition a smooth one.
- Emergency Manager Paul Mikaniewicz was appointed Fire Chief for the Becket Fire Department; Gene Goebel has replaced him.
- All current elected officials were re-elected: Dick Grillon to the Select Board, Don Gagnon to the Planning Board and both Sean Connors and Dick Spencer to the Finance Committee.

Highway Projects:

- Upper Valley was raised to minimize flooding.
- The Middlefield Road culvert over Coles Brook could not be completed within the available \$500,000 Small Bridge grant. DOT requested additional funding for this project which has dragged on for almost six years.

- Another \$500,000 Small Bridge grant for repairing three bridges along Lenox-Whitney Road in October Mountain State Forest remains open; Gill Engineering is working on a solution.
- FEMA requested and received additional information about the design for a new culvert on upper Frost Road; we expect to hear soon about our construction grant.

Property issues:

- Woody's Roadhouse remains an eyesore. The Town has paid to fence it off and to remediate hazardous materials, but the bids we received for its demolition were far above what the Town could hope to recoup from the tax-taking and sale of the property.
- After the Board of Health condemned all the buildings at Bucksteep and forced a Housing Court hearing, the owner signed an agreement to bring the main building up to code by August 1. Failure to comply will make them subject to fines.
- A proposal for a "glamping" facility along Lower Valley Road was rejected both by the Board of Health and the Planning Board.

Ongoing efforts:

- A new committee is working with BRPC to finally get us designated as a Green Community. The Town would receive a grant of over \$100,000 and be eligible for additional funding to reduce our energy footprint.
- The auditorium roof of the Town Hall was replaced and the voters at the Annual Town Meeting approved funding to repair the remaining portion of the building's roof.
- We continue to negotiate with Nature Conservancy for the sale of Town-owned property in the defunct Virginia Lakes development.
- We received a grant to evaluate the Town's compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and hired resident Terry Robbins to do the work. Terry did a great job. His report is posted on the Town's website. Next steps will be to apply for grant money to remedy our deficiencies.
- Roughly a third of our households responded to the Town Planning survey (summary available on the website) but unfortunately the planning effort was suspended due to the pandemic. We expect to resume this summer.
- We held two "All-Hands" Meetings in which all the Town's committees, financial officers, inspectors – everyone who represents or works for the Town in any official or volunteer capacity – got together to share plans, needs and suggestions for improving Town services. We expect to resume these sessions once the Town Hall reopens.
- Construction of the new Wahconah High School is on schedule. Borrowing for the project was on much more favorable terms than anticipated: Instead of an annual District-wide levy of \$2.3 million at 4% the levy will be \$1.8 million at 2.7%. The impact on our tax rate will be significant.
- We have not been able to get our PILOT funding raised but we continue to press our legislative delegation for reform of this seriously flawed program.
- Our broadband network will be completed the coming summer, more than a decade after the Commonwealth appropriated the funds and made high-speed internet a priority. Thanks to Kent Lew who has worked over and above on the installations.
- Despite the impact of the pandemic, the Wahconah project and our broadband installation, our finances remain sound thanks to the hard work of the Finance Committee.

Our ability to keep the Town functioning and to prepare for whatever the future holds depends on the work of many people, most of them volunteers. If you can volunteer even a small portion of your time to help maintain and strengthen our community, please let us know. Democracy works best with participation. Bring us your ideas or concerns at any time.

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand,
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon,
Select Board

Report of the Town Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

TOWN POPULATION

REGISTERED VOTERS

CONSERVATIVE	1
DEMOCRAT	124
LIBERTARIAN	2
MA INDEPENDENT PARTY	1
REPUBLICAN	38
UNENROLLED	262
WORKING FAMLIES	
TOTAL	428

REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 8, 2019 43

VOTES CAST AT THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION: MAY 18, 2019 69

REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 38

REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: DECEMBER 16, 2019 15

VOTES CAST AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: MARCH 3, 2020 208

Respectfully
submitted,



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

<u>BIRTHS</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Parents</u>
None		

<u>DEATHS</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Residence</u>
February 15, 2020	George Edwin Sear, Jr.	66	132 South Washington State Rd Washington, Massachusetts
April 3, 2020	Joel Donald Goddard	72	503 South Washington State Rd Washington, Massachusetts

<u>MARRIAGES</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Residence</u>
August 3, 2019	Yvonne A. Wendling John S. Morrow	108 Simmons Road, Washington 34 Winter Street, Pittsfield, MA
August 31, 2019	Elizabeth Gardner Kulik Matthew Robert Watson	385 Johnson Hill Road, Washington 385 Johnson Hill Road, Washington

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Clerk

DOG LICENSES ISSUED

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Neutered Male</u>	<u>Spayed Female</u>	<u>Kennel</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019						
July						0
August						0
September						0
October						0
November						0
December				1		1
2020						
January			3	4		7
February	1		2	1		4
March			3	5	1	9
April			2	4		6
May	1		4	7		12
June			1			1
Totals	2	0	15	22	1	40
Total \$	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$88.00	\$200.00	\$368.00
Clerk Fee	\$1.50	\$0.00	\$11.25	\$16.50	\$0.75	\$30.00

Prices for individual dog licenses: \$4.00 for a neutered/spayed dog; \$10.00 for unaltered dog

Price for kennel licenses sold \$50.00 (10 dogs or less) and \$100.00 (10 dogs or more)

Town Clerk fee: \$0.75 for each dog license

Respectfully Submitted,



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk

Report of the Municipal Light Plant

Washington MLP annual report

In 2019/2020, the Town's fiber-optic network project finally bore fruit and true broadband high-speed internet became a reality in Washington.

The better portion of Summer 2019 was spend constructing an underground conduit pathway along Lower Valley Rd, from Cross Place Rd to Johnson Hill Rd, in order to create a direct connection from our central hub to the residents of Johnson Hill Rd, Middlefield Rd, and Ryan Rd, where they otherwise receive utility services through North Becket.

This project was undertaken by our Highway Supervisor Tom Johnson and Equipment Operator Dave Waldron, working with MLP Manager Kent Lew, along with substantial volunteer work by Dick Spencer. It took about twice as long as originally anticipated, which unfortunately hampered some of the usual summer road maintenance. But utilizing Town resources saved an estimated \$100,000 on this critical component.

Earlier in Spring 2019, the concrete "hut" to house our central electronics was installed on the east side of the Town Hall parking lot. The site was prepared and the backup generator was installed entirely with volunteer help from Dave Drugmand, Dick Spencer, and Frank Polizzi, again saving the project several thousand dollars. Local electrician Chris Johnson provided the final electrical hookup.

While town resources and volunteers were occupied with these preparatory projects, the construction of the fiber network itself was held up all summer waiting for Eversource and Verizon to finish their make-ready. Make-ready is the process of replacing poles and moving existing wires to make room for new cables to be attached at the required spacing. Because several hilltowns were going through this process at the same time, utility crews were stretched thin and it was difficult to get our work prioritized.

Even after make-ready was declared complete and the final pole licenses were issued by Eversource and Verizon, our construction was delayed an additional month beyond the scheduled October startup due to residual make-ready issues that were discovered during a pre-construction review. Similar issues continued to plague the project throughout the construction phase.

Nevertheless, our construction contractor Sertex eventually began work in late November, starting finally on the week of Thanksgiving. The Sertex crews worked diligently throughout the winter, battling weather and various adverse conditions. Our highway staff continued to be helpful, sometimes providing extra plowing or sanding on request, or occasionally helping free a bucket truck that got stuck in a snow bank. They even once lent a spare tire and changed it out so that a fiber crew didn't lose a whole day while their truck was hauled back to their garage.

Report of the Municipal Light Plant

By the beginning of March 2020, our first Fiber Service Area, covering most of town west of Route 8, was ready to be lit up. But as fate would have it, that's when Gov. Baker declared a State of Emergency due to the growing coronavirus threat. And very soon thereafter Whip City Fiber, our internet service provider, suspended all in-home installation work — literally on the eve of starting our customer hookups. We had planned that very next day to start calling customers to schedule, when the whole effort suddenly had to be placed on indefinite hold.

This led to a very frustrating eight-week hiatus. Just when the stakes had never been higher for broadband internet access because of the pandemic shutdown, we were completely prevented from bringing this critical new service to our customers, because of the pandemic shutdown.

At the end of April, when it became clear that things weren't going back to "normal" any time soon, we insisted that Whip City Fiber and its subcontractor TriWire find a way to adapt their procedures to allow some in-home installations to resume. Customers would need to weigh the risks for themselves and consent, of course; but we needed some reasonable option for those who were most desperate. Doing nothing was simply not acceptable.

To their credit, both companies responded. Following the best recommendations available from both State and Federal health authorities, Covid protocols were put in place that met with approval by our Board of Health, and we were once again able to offer customers an option to get broadband installed. Most welcomed the opportunity, despite the lingering health risks. Our first homes were finally connected on May 13, 2020.

Meanwhile, Sertex had been able to keep working throughout, and by the end of May the entire distribution network was completed. At this point, we were able to implement a whole-town strategy, working to prioritize and schedule those families with the greatest needs for internet to maintain their livelihoods and children's educations, across the board, wherever possible.

By June 30, we had managed to connect 47% of subscribers and were well on our way to getting all our customers served by the end of the calendar year.

— Kent Lew
Washington Broadband Manager

Report of the Accessors

Town of Washington **Fiscal Year 2020** Town Report from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

FY 2020 is the 8th year the town has had a timely tax rate. Payments to the tax collector were due November 1, 2019 and May 1, 2020. We are currently in training for the new Tyler AIS software for the assessor's office. We hope to have data converted and ready for Fiscal Year 2021.

Washington residential percentage is **94.1244**. Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property is **5.8756%**.

The total value of the town is **\$83,866,965**. Single residential home value totaled **\$58,603,000**. The average value of the 244 residential (101) homes is **\$ 240,176**.

New construction was the lowest since FY 2011. New growth was valued at **\$377,574 for taxable dollars of \$ 5,600** using previous tax rate of **\$14.83** as required by Dept of Revenue.

Eight properties went exempt either by being sold to the Commonwealth of Mass or the Nature Conservancy. These sales were an increase to the exempt properties of **\$ 1,129,000 over last year**.

100 exempt properties including town owned as well as state owned properties equaled **\$27,454,500 for FY2020**.

The amount to be raised by taxation is **\$ 1,282,325.89** causes an increase of **.46 for this year's tax rate of \$ 15.29** per thousand of value for all classes or property.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman Mary Jarvie
Assessor Laura LaFreniere,
Assessor/Consultant Karen Avalor
October 19, 2020

Report of the Finance Committee

FY20 ATM Budget Summary

The total operating expenditures in the Town's upcoming FY20 budget come to \$1,686,605. This is a net increase in the town's budget of \$33,992 (2.06%) over FY19.

Our CBRSD school operating assessment for FY20 is increasing by 2.21%, slightly less than the average of the past five years. However, our Vocational Ed. costs will go down significantly, as we anticipate only one student next year, instead of two. As a result, we will see a net decrease in our overall Education spending of -\$10,075 (-1.4%).

Several line items in the FY20 budget reflect a 2.5% cost-of-living-allowance increase to most wages. This is based on the change in annual average Consumer Price Index for last calendar year. The net change across the budget due to wage increases is \$3,826.

For the third year in a row, the Highway Dept. has committed to keeping their operating budget at level-funding. However, next year's health insurance reflects a notable increase, due to a change in plan subscriptions on account of a staff change. So the overall Highway budget will see a net increase of \$14,405 (2.74%), due to wage & benefits adjustments.

Our Debt Service will see a sizeable increase due to the issuance of our Broadband debt. We had hoped to forestall this until FY21. But the state grant money is now nearly depleted and, in order to keep the project moving forward, we had to issue the debt before the end of this fiscal year, and so the first interest-only payment will come in next year's budget. This will contribute about \$0.21 on the tax rate.

There are two medium-sized capital repairs on the warrant: one for a new dump bed for our International 4800 truck (\$62,000) and one to begin replacing part of the Town Hall Roof (\$40,000). By making these appropriations from Free Cash, we avoid the additional cost of borrowing, and these expenditures do not directly affect the tax levy.

On the revenue side, once again we are facing a potential loss in non-tax revenue due to a projected \$33,000 decrease in our PILOT reimbursement for state-owned land. That translates to about \$0.40 on the tax rate. Last year, we received an eleventh-hour reprieve on this issue and PILOT payments were held at prior-year levels. Without another intervention this year, we are likely to see a net loss of -12.77% in State Aid. This shifts burden to the property tax and could contribute to an increase in the Tax Levy of about \$62,747 (5.16%).

In terms of taxes, the Finance Committee is currently projecting very little increase in the Town's tax base (0.62%). This reduced growth reflects the fact that Nature Conservancy acquired 320 acres in town last year. These parcels will be removed from the tax rolls this year, contributing about \$0.12 on the tax rate. As a result, we are currently forecasting a potential FY20 tax rate of \$15.50, an increase of \$0.67 (4.51%) over FY19.

Kent Lew, Finance Committee chair

Report of the Finance Committee (continued)

FY20 Budget, Supplemental Notes

Line-item Notes & Basis

8 b) Town Counsel Retainer. Requested increase from counsel.

8 d) Administrative Assistants. An average of 17 hrs per week at \$18.67/hr. The year-over-year reduction represents a transfer of 5 hrs per week to Board of Health Expenses for BOH admin tasks previously performed by AAs.

8 j) Assessor's Computer Services. Last year's budget included some one-time software conversion costs that won't be needed in the coming year.

8 n & y) Treasurer's Tax Title Expenses & Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses. Increases to both Tax Title Expenses accounts reflect anticipated greater activity as we continue to pursue outstanding unpaid property taxes.

12 a & b) Vocational Ed. Tuition & Vocational Ed. Transportation. Decreases reflects only one student next year, attending Smith Vocational in Northampton.

13 m) Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share). The increase reflects the change to three Family Plans with the new Hwy employee.

14 a) Becket Fire Department – fire protection. After last year's disagreement between towns, the Select Board has signed a five-year agreement with Becket. In future years, there will be an annual 2.5% increase.

14 j) Animal Control Officer Expenses. The increase is for training and some necessary equipment.

14 k) Board of Health Expenses. The increase reflects 5 hrs per week at \$18.67/hr. BOH admin tasks were previously performed by AAs, but are now being managed and accounted separately.

14 l & m) Health Agent & Public Health Nurse. These increases reflect new contracts with the Berkshire Public Health Alliance.

17 d) Last-Mile Fiber Network. This is an interest-only payment on the first year of borrowing. This note was combined with the Culverts and 5500 Plow for a one-year term at 2.2% interest for next year.

Free Cash appropriations

The certified Free Cash for FY19 was \$150,080.

20) Hwy 4800 Truck bed. This is for a stainless steel dump bed to replace the rotting bed on the old 4800. This will allow us to get many more years of life out of the truck, which is otherwise still in good operating condition.

Report of the Finance Committee (continued)

21) Partial Town Hall Roof replacement. This is for replacement of the portion of Town Hall roof over the auditorium, which is deemed to be the section most in need of replacement first. We will hope to use future Free Cash to tackle other sections in coming years, as the entire roof needs to be replaced eventually.

22) Gate for Ashley Reservoir. This is for a gate to have installed by the Pittsfield Water Dept. at the north entrance to Ashley Reservoir in response to last year's shooting incident there.

23) Stabilization Fund. Our current Stabilization Fund balance is \$153,000. A good target for our Stabilization Fund would be \$280K, or roughly two months of the town's operating budget. The proposed FY20 transfer will bring us to about 55% of that target.

Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

Updated on: 4/23/19		
	Account Description	FY 2020 Warrant
10 & 11	Elected Officer's Salaries (itemized below)	\$23,388
a	Town Clerk	\$8,403
b	Assessors - Chairperson	\$3,921
c	Assessors - Clerk	\$3,530
d	Assessors - 3rd Member	\$0
e	Selectmen - Chairperson	\$2,487
f	Selectmen - Clerk	\$2,487
g	Selectmen - 3rd Member	\$2,487
h	Moderator	\$73
12	General Government (itemized below)	\$147,446
a	Reserve Account	\$15,000
b	Town Counsel Retainer	\$4,000
c	Town Counsel Expenses	\$150
d	Administrative Assistant	\$16,900
e	Selectmen's Expenses	\$3,000
f	Planning Board Expenses	\$400
g	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	\$429
h	Assessors' Consulting Services	\$13,183
i	Assessors' Expenses	\$2,000
j	Assessors' Computer Services	\$3,395
k	Tax Map Maintenance	\$3,300
l	Appointed Treas. Salary	\$14,281
m	Treasurer's Expenses	\$3,000
n	Treasurer's Tax Title Expenses	\$1,500
o	Interest & Issuance on Short-Term Notes	\$3,000
p	Insurance (Wkmn's Comp. & general property)	\$8,405
q	Medicare Taxes for Town Employees	\$4,200
r	Auditing Expenses	\$6,000
s	Accounting Officer Salary	\$14,118
t	Accounting Officer Expenses	\$200
u	Accounting Software (Vadar)	\$2,195
v	Appointed Tax Collector Salary	\$10,700
w	Assistant Tax Collector's Salary	\$2,000
x	Tax Collector's Expenses	\$3,500
y	Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses	\$3,000
z	Town Clerk's Expenses	\$3,000
aa	Clerk of Brd. of Registrars	\$100
bb	Computer support - Accessable Voting	\$1,200
cc	Records Preservation Account	\$2,500
dd	Town Reports	\$1,000
ee	Finance Committee Expenses	\$200
ff	Moderator's Expenses	\$50

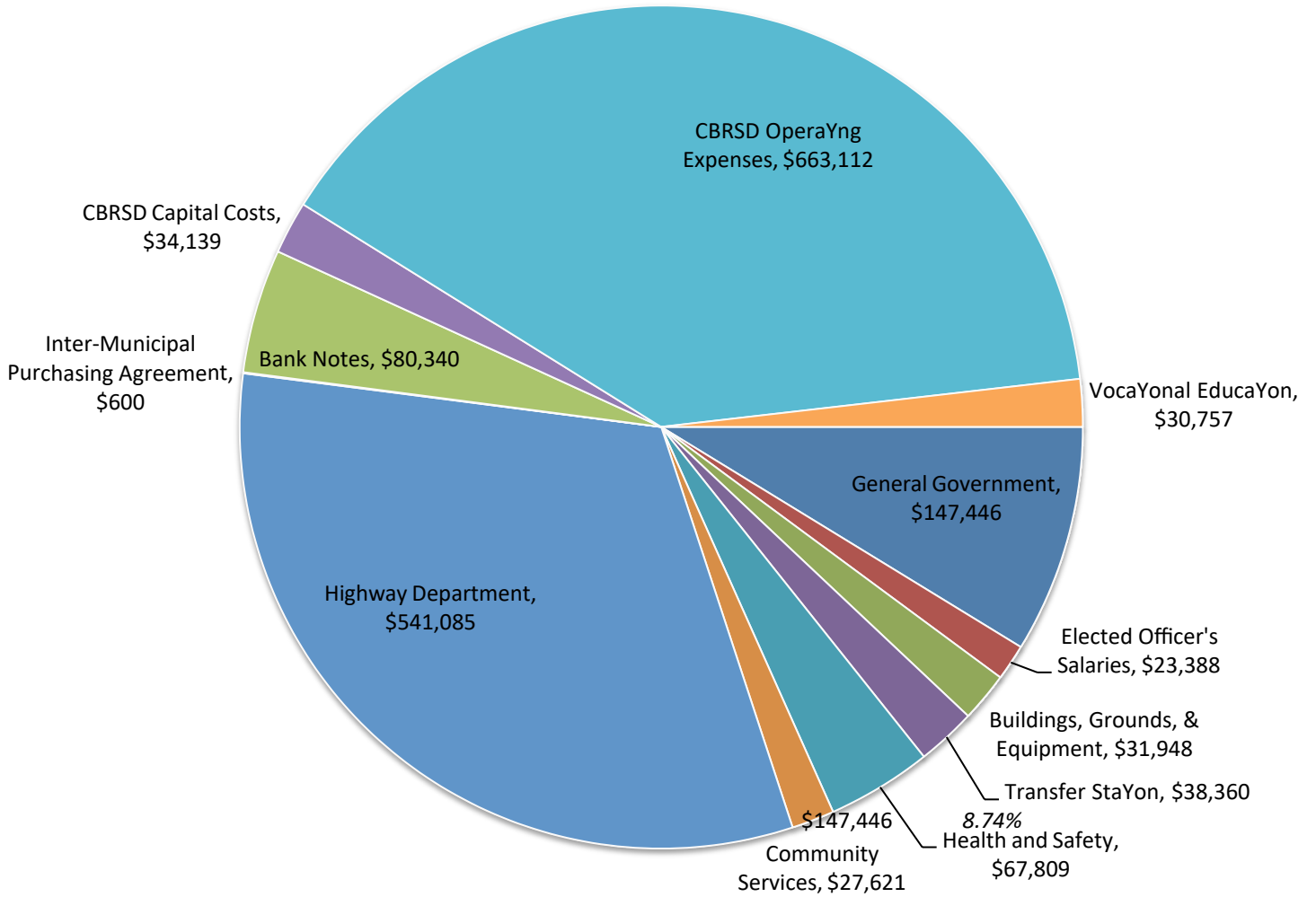
Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

gg	Conservation Commission Expenses	\$300
hh	Zoning Enforcement Officer Account	\$1,000
ii	Zoning Board Of Appeals Expenses	\$240
13	Inter-Municipal Purchasing Agreement	\$600
14	CBRSD Capital Costs (itemized below)	\$34,139
a	Becket-Washington School (Debt Exclusion) FY25	\$29,408
b	Wahconah - renovation, FY29	\$3,377
c	Craneville Roof, FY23	\$0
d	Kittridge Windows, FY22	\$153
e	Craneville HVAC, FY22	\$0
f	Security Updates FY25	\$380
g	Wahconah sidewalks FY22	\$362
h	WRHS Feasibility Study, FY22	\$459
15	CBRSD Operating Expenses (itemized below)	\$663,112
a	Minimum Contribution	\$469,988
b	Transportation Assessment	\$24,854
c	Basic Budget Balance	\$168,270
16	Vocational Education (itemized below)	\$30,757
a	Vocational Ed. Tuition	\$18,000
b	Vocational Ed. Transportation	\$12,000
c	School Bus Insurance	\$757
17	Highway Department (itemized below)	\$541,085
a	Salaries	\$142,500
b	Winter Road Overtime	\$13,370
c	Non-Winter Overtime	\$5,571
d	Road & Bridge Maintenance	\$65,000
e	Winter Snow & Ice Removal	\$105,000
f	Engineering Consultation	\$8,100
g	Tree Work	\$10,000
h	Fuel	\$20,000
i	Machinery Repair	\$25,000
j	Gen. Maintenance, Tools & Supplies	\$27,000
k	Hwy. Dept. Operating Expenses	\$16,000
l	Highway Equip. Insurance	\$13,545
m	Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share)	\$59,700
n	Unemployment Account	\$0
o	Berkshire County Retirement	\$30,299
18	Health and Safety (itemized below)	\$67,809
a	Becket Fire Department - fire protection	\$15,000
b	Becket Fireman's Assoc.	\$250
c	Police Chief Salary	\$11,425
d	Police Department Expenses	\$2,600
e	Police Dept Telecomm	\$4,056
f	Police Coverage - pumpkin walk	\$320
g	Police/Fire Insurance	\$7,000
h	Enhanced 911	\$9,608
i	Animal Control Officer Reimbursement	\$800

Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

j	Animal Control Officer Expenses	\$1,000
k	Board Of Health Expenses	\$5,250
l	Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance)	\$3,750
m	Public Health Nurse	\$1,750
n	Building Inspector Salary	\$4,500
o	Building Inspector Expenses	\$500
19	Community Services (itemized below)	\$27,621
a	Son's & Daughter's Reunion	\$500
b	Historical Commission	\$400
c	Veterans' Aid	\$6,500
d	Veterans' Services Inter-Municipal Agreement	\$2,250
e	Council on Aging	\$1,500
f	Becket Athenaeum	\$8,721
g	Becket Athenaeum Capital	\$2,000
h	Washington TRACKS	\$2,250
i	Use of Becket Beach	\$2,500
j	Wired West dues	\$1,000
20	Transfer Station (itemized below)	\$38,360
a	Operating Expenses	\$26,000
b	Attendant Labor Expenses	\$8,789
c	<i>Southern Berk. Solid Waste</i>	\$2,071
d	Facility Maintenance	\$1,500
21	Bank Notes (itemized below)	\$82,650
a	Plow Truck, FY20	\$20,400
b	Culverts, FY33	\$35,000
c	5500 Plow & Sander, FY23	\$8,000
d	Last-Mile Fiber Network, FY34 (debt exclusion)	\$19,250
22	Buildings, Grounds, & Equipment (itemized below)	\$31,948
a	Town Building Operating Expenses	\$13,000
b	Town Hall Repair & Maintenance	\$5,500
c	Custodian reimbursement	\$3,647
d	Maintenance Coordinator Reimbursement	\$551
e	Town Office Equip & Support	\$2,500
f	Town Office Supplies & Services	\$1,000
g	Historical Properties Repair & Maintenance	\$2,000
h	St. Andrew's Chapel windows	\$1,500
i	Town Park	\$2,250
23	Hwy 4800 Truck bed replacement (from Free Cash)	\$62,000
24	Partial Town Hall Roof replacement (from Free Cash)	\$40,000
25	Gate for Ashley Reservoir (from Free Cash)	\$2,200
26	Transfer from Free Cash to Stabilization	\$12,000
27	Transfer from Free Cash to reduce tax levy	\$25,000

Town of Washington, FY20 Operating Budget



General Government		
Elected Officer's Salaries	\$23,388	1.39%
Buildings, Grounds, & Equipment	\$31,948	1.89%
Transfer Station	\$38,360	2.27%
Health and Safety	\$67,809	4.02%
Community Services	\$27,621	1.64%
Highway Department	\$541,085	32.08%
Inter-Municipal Purchasing Agreement	\$600	0.04%
Bank Notes	\$80,340	4.76%
CBRSD Capital Costs	\$34,139	2.02%
CBRSD Operating Expenses	\$663,112	39.32%
Vocational Education	\$30,757	1.82%
	\$1,686,605	100.00%

Budget Revenue Projections for Fiscal Year 2020

Updated on: 5/7/19

	Enacted FY18	Enacted FY19	Proposed FY20	\$ change over FY19	
Total Budget	\$1,629,217	\$1,692,613	\$1,802,805	\$110,192	6.51%
Internal Funding					
From Free Cash	\$45,000	\$80,000	\$141,200		
From Stab. Fund					
From Previous Year Operating Accts.					
Subtotal	\$45,000	\$80,000	\$141,200		
Total Raise and Appropriate	\$1,584,217	\$1,612,613	\$1,661,605	\$48,992	3.04%
Cherry Sheet Income Estimates					
Education:					
Chap. 70	\$4,390	\$5,517	\$7,651	\$2,134	
School Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Offset Receipts:					
School Choice Receiving Tuition	\$0	\$0	\$0		
General Government:					
Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid	\$94,358	\$97,661	\$100,298	\$2,637	
Local Share of Racing Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Regional Public Libraries	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Urban Revitalization	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Veteran's Benefits	\$4,597	\$4,574	\$4,574		
State Owned Land (PILOT)	\$102,292	\$102,292	\$69,002	-\$33,290	-32.5%
Exemption Reimbursements: VBS & Elderl	\$8,289	\$8,247	\$8,489	\$242	
Offset Receipts:					
Public Libraries	\$1,885	\$1,945	\$2,092	\$147	
Total Cherry Sheet Estimates	\$215,811	\$220,236	\$192,106	-\$28,130	-12.77%
Local Income Estimates					
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	\$80,000	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$10,000	
Penalties & Interest	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0	
Pymt. In Lieu taxes (Pittsfield watershed)	\$104,000	\$106,000	\$108,000	\$2,000	
Charges for Services - Trash	\$1,500	\$1,662	\$1,700	\$38	
Charges for Services - Other	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Licenses & Permits	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$1,500	
Fines & Forfeits	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	
Interest Income	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500	
Misc. Non-Recurring	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Misc. Recurring (Hinsdale Plowing)	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0	
Total Local Income Estimates	\$211,200	\$204,362	\$218,400	\$14,038	6.87%

Budget Revenue Projections for Fiscal Year 2020

Debits/Charges

State Air Pollution District Assessment	-\$173	-\$177	-\$173	\$4	
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	-\$780	-\$780	-\$300	\$480	
State Regional Transit Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0		
School Choice Sending Tuition	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Offset for Public Libraries	-\$1,885	-\$1,945	-\$2,092	-\$147	
Carry Over Deficit	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total Overlay Deficits of Prior Years	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Previous Year Winter Roads Overrun	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Abatement Allowance	-\$44,460	-\$26,000	-\$26,000	\$0	
Total Debits	-\$47,298	-\$28,902	-\$28,565	\$337	-1.17%
Total Non-tax Revenue Estimates	\$379,713	\$395,696	\$381,941	-\$13,755	-3.48%
Estimated Total to be Raised from Taxes	\$1,204,504	\$1,216,917	\$1,279,664	\$62,747	5.16%

LEVY LIMIT SUMMARY

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	
Previous FY Levy Limit	\$1,119,228	\$1,171,706	\$1,221,474	
Amended Prev. Yr. Growth	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Growth	\$24,497	\$20,476	\$15,000	1.233%
2.5% Increase	\$27,981	\$29,293	\$30,537	
Previous FY Override	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Debt Exclusion(s)	\$43,214	\$34,148	\$46,348	
Capital Expenditure Exclusion(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other Adjustment	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Water/Sewer	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Maximum Allowable Levy Limit	\$1,214,920	\$1,255,622	\$1,313,359	
Estimated Total to be Raised from Taxes	\$1,204,504	\$1,216,917	\$1,279,664	97.4% of levy limit
Difference - Under/(Over)	\$ 10,416	\$ 38,705	\$ 33,695	

TAX RATE ESTIMATES

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20 est.</u>	
Assessed Valuation	\$81,220,762	\$82,057,793	\$82,563,525	0.62% increase
Tax Rate	\$14.83	\$14.83	\$15.50	\$0.67 difference
<i>% change from previous year</i>	<i>5.64%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>4.51%</i>	
Average Single Family Home value	\$228,277	\$231,131	\$231,131	
Average Single Family Home assessment	\$3,385	\$3,428	\$3,582	\$154.66 difference

Report of the Planning Board

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2020

The Planning Board met throughout this two-year period.

Subdivision ANRs – (Approval Not Required) reviewed and approved as bona fide ANRs:

- Division of Williams property on Beach Road to create a building lot., Patrick McColgan – Darlene Brunell.

Marijuana Establishments Zoning Bylaws – Review, Development and Implementation:

- On November 8, 2016 the Town of Washington voted to in favor of the Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization initiative, the initiative was passed and accepted. All towns that voted in favor of this initiative must now allow the cultivation, sale and distribution of Marijuana in their municipality.
- In January of 2018 the Town engaged the assistance of Christopher Gruba of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist in the development of set of Washington specific Zoning Bylaws governing this program. The Planning Board and Mr. Gruba began the process leading to the following events:
 - April 2018 – Public Hearing to delay voting on a Bylaw to 12/31/18 in order to finalize a Washington specific set of bylaws and guidelines. – Approved.
 - Monthly development meetings with Chris Gruba
 - October 2018 – Joint meeting with Select-board to review draft bylaw.
 - Request to develop an Illumination bylaw to be voted on at Special Town meeting in December.
 - November 2018 Illumination Bylaw development.
 - November 27, 2018, Public hearing on Marijuana and Illumination Bylaws
- Special Town Meeting December 10, 2018 – Marijuana and Illumination Bylaws passed.

Lew's Variance Request:

- May 2019 – Kent and Carol Lew's Application for Variance of lot setback – Washington Mountain Road, received.
- June 2019 – Public Hearing on Lew's request – Variance approved.

Matthew White – TentRR Special Permit Application:

- June – September 2019 General Discussion with Mr. White, his Attorney and representatives from TentRR. – Special Permit Application Filed.
- Special Permit Public Hearings in October, November and December.
- December 2019, Planning Board Decision to Deny Application.
- February 2020, meeting to review Denial.

Respectfully Submitted

Donald Gagnon – Chair – Planning Board.



WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
8 Summit Hill Road
Washington, Massachusetts 01223

NICOLE M. MILLER
CHIEF OF POLICE

PHONE: (413) 446-4294
FAX: (413) -623-5111

During fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

There were 380 calls received/responded to the Town of Washington. This is an increase to the previous year.

There has been an increase nationwide, as well as locally, in cybercrime and identity theft. Residents should always be on alert and should never give out information such as bank account numbers or any identifying information ie: date of birth, social security numbers and etc. over the phone. Identity thieves have become very clever in coming up with ways to extract this kind of information, please don't hesitate to call the Chief should you have any questions in regards to Identity theft.

If residents are going to be away on vacation, think about giving the Police Department a call or sending an email. This way, your residence can be put on the house watch list and will be checked on while you are away.

It has been a difficult year for many as we continue to manage our way through this pandemic. The Washington Police Department will continue to have an "Open Door" Policy and encourage the residents in town to reach out to the Chief via telephone or email for any questions or concerns they may have. Due to the pandemic, the Police Department will be accepting License to Carry applications via email or regular mail. New applicants will need to make an appointment with the Chief for fingerprints.

I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Washington, the Selectboard, The Becket/Washington Fire department, the Highway Department and the Becket and Hinsdale Police Department's for their continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Nicole Miller

Report of the Washington Police Department (continued)

Call Log

Fiscal Year 2020	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
Alarm				1									1
Ambulance/Medical	1		2	2			1	4	4	7	1	3	25
Animal		1	1		1	3		2	4			3	15
Assist other Department	3		1			2	2				1		9
Assault & Battery		1											1
Attempted Suicide								1					1
Break & Entering													
Car Fire						1							1
Car Off Roadway					3	3	2						8
Calls for Service	10	7	11	4	9	14	9	11	6	7	10	12	110
Civil	2	3			3	1	1		4		1	1	16
Community Policing			1										1
Detail	2												2
Disabled Motor Vehicle	2		1			2			2		1		8
Disturbance										1	2	2	5
Fire Dept.		1		2	2					4	1		10
Follow up Invest.	3	1	3		1	1	2		1	1		2	15
Gun Shots													
Larceny					1				1				2
Missing Person			1										1
Motor Vehicle Accident	3		1	4	2		5	1	1		2	1	20
Property Damage						1							1
Phone 911 Hang Up	2	2					3	1	1		1	2	12
Reckless Driving	1	1		1								1	4
Road Complaints	1		2	4	9	7	2	5					30
Scam	2				1							2	5
Section 12									1				1
Sensitive Call R	1						1						2
Suspicious Activity	2		4			2	1		3	1	2	1	16
Suspicious Persons				1									1
Traffic Enforcement	4	3	4	4	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	46
Trespass	1						1						2
Unwanted Party							1						1
Vandalism												1	1
Welfare Check				1			1			1			3
Wires Down			1	2				1					4
Total Calls Monthly	40	20	33	26	34	39	35	30	32	27	27	37	380

Report of the Tax Collector

	Balance 7/1/2019	Commitments (+)	Collected (-)	Abatements Exemptions (-)	Refunds Issued (+)	Balance 6/30/2020
Real Estate						
2018	\$ 42,273.53		\$ 7,805.11			\$ 34,468.42
2019	\$ 103,355.18		\$ 48,543.17			\$ 54,812.01
2020		\$ 1,259,175.87	\$ 1,114,515.05	\$ 31,761.33	\$ 314.48	\$ 113,213.97
TOTALS	\$ 179,623.91	\$ 1,259,175.87	\$ 1,174,691.22	\$ 31,761.33	\$ 314.48	\$ 232,661.71
PERSONAL PROPERTY						
2018	\$ 843.56		\$ 44.82			\$ 798.74
2019	\$ 2,518.85		\$ 1,720.11			\$ 798.74
2020	\$ -	\$ 32,364.28	\$ 31,540.76			\$ 823.52
TOTALS	\$ -	\$ 32,364.28	\$ 33,305.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (941.41)
Motor Vehicle						
2018	\$ 1,443.44		\$ 364.69			\$ 1,078.75
2019	\$ 6,586.87	\$ 10,551.64	\$ 14,306.92	\$ 1,034.19	\$ 879.36	\$ 2,676.76
2020	\$ -	\$ 93,844.25	\$ 80,932.84	\$ 1,624.16	\$ 167.90	\$ 11,455.15
TOTALS	\$ 16,301.17	\$ 104,395.89	\$ 96,124.24	\$ 2,658.35	\$ 1,047.26	\$ 22,961.73
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 195,925.08	\$ 1,395,936.04	\$ 1,304,121.15	\$ 34,419.68	\$ 1,361.74	\$ 254,682.03
INTEREST			\$ 12,180.99			
FEES			\$ 1,565.00			
DEPUTY COLLECTOR FEES			\$ 1,152.00			
MV MARKING FEES			\$ 360.00			
MISC. FEES			\$ 37.91			
GRAND TOTAL COLLECTED			\$ 1,319,417.05			

Respectfully Submitted: Gina Campbell

Report of the Building Inspector

A total of eighteen (18) permits were issued in Fiscal Year 2020.

1	Addition Permit
1	Barn Permit
1	Gable Permit
1	Gazebo Permit
1	Insulation Permit
1	Shed Permit
1	Siding Permit
1	Solar Permit
1	Tent Permit
2	New Home Permits
2	Roof Permits
2	Window Permit
3	Stove Permits

Total amount collected for the Fiscal Year 2020 is \$4,625.00.

Respectively Submitted,

Paul Greene, Building Inspector

Report of the Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Plumbing Permits & Inspections

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

- 2 New houses
- 1 Water Heater
- 1 Bathroom Renovation

Gas Permits & Inspections

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

- 1 Boiler
- 1 Heater and fireplace
- 1 Generator
- 1 Gas line to house and generator
- 1 Gas piping in new house

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A Levernoch

Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Report of the Washington Fire Department

Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

The Town of Washington had a total of 27 emergency responses;

- 12 EMS calls, this includes Becket Ambulance, Becket Fire, County Ambulance and the State Police.
- 3 Illegal outdoor burns.
- 1 Unattended campfire on October Mountain.
- 3 CO (carbon monoxide) alarms.
- 4 MVA's (motor vehicle accidents) including a motorcycle accident on October Mountain.
- 2 Lost hikers on October Mountain.
- 1 Smoke complaint investigation.
- 1 Reported structure fire that was unfounded but did require surrounding towns to investigate.
- During a wind/rain weather event several calls for trees on wires and wires down. (Not included in 27 emergency response count).

The Fire Chief/Department business is as follows;

- 5 Oil furnace, oil tank permits.
- 6 Propane tank install/storage permits.
- 3 Smoke/CO compliance certificates.
- 3 Smoke/CO sign-offs for new construction.
- 200 Open burn permits issued.

The Coronavirus pandemic has proven challenging for all and has caused the fire chief/department to modify some aspects of response and inspections.

I would like to thank all for letting me continue serving as Fire Chief. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mikaniewicz
Fire Chief

Town of Washington
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Annual Report JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

Members:

Michelle Lampro - Chair
Shaun Lennon
Eyal Shapiro
Trish Drugmand
Lisa Peltier

This was a SLOW year for the Conservation Commission. We had one meeting in September - the following projects were on the agenda.

John Love - RE: 482 S Washington State Rd.: John presented a map of his property and described a project that he would like to pursue. He was looking for guidance and consult on how to proceed. The commission advised him to submit an RDA with his plan.

Crocker COC: - The Commission issued an Certificate of Compliance to the new owners of the property at 735 Upper Valley Rd.

Kristopher Massini - Notice of Intent - project in October Mtn State Forest:

The project consists of removing a 14 acre (aprox.) dead and dying Norway Spruce plantation - of which a 2.3 acre area is located in wetlands along Washington Mtn Rd. The non-native species is suffering from a soil born fungus. Native trees and shrubs will be retained. The Commission's concerns included the possible issues around equipment parking and access, the leaving of debris, and what the area would look like after completion. Kris will be setting up a meeting with Commissioners and Tom Johnson for Washington's DPW to discuss possible strategies for equipment parking. He also explained that, although many trees will be taken, there are native trees and saplings that will remain on site so it won't look like total devastation. He is confident that regeneration will be rapid. Kris also explained that leaving some limbs and debris will ultimately enrich the soils.

Report of the Highway Department

We are in the start of winter of 2019/20.

This year's projects included:

1. The highway dug up 4100 feet of Lower valley road and installed conduit for the towns Fiber network.
2. We replaced 10 culverts on Lower Valley Road
3. We took a lot of dead trees down so that they would not fall causing a safety concern and block roads.
4. Worked on trimming tree branches back from the road ways. We will be continuing this work.
5. Middlefield Road bridge replacement is underway

These were the larger projects in addition to our regular work schedule which included grading, mowing, plowing and whatever else Mother Nature tosses our way.

We are working with the Select board to see where we will use this and our other Chapter 90 funds.

Thank you for your continued support of the Highway Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnson
Highway Superintendent

Report of the Transfer Station

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

Covanta (where our trash goes) was taken over by Community Eco Power sometime in Aug - Sept 2019. Jim Huebner was able to negotiate a good price for our tonnage - from \$ 82.5 to \$ 75. per ton - this resulted in a savings of about \$ 1,200 for our 160 ton of trash for the fiscal year.

We had an increase of tonnage for the first half of 2020 - probably due, in part, to the number of people that came from the cities to stay here in the Berkshires during the “covid” scare - as well as the number of folks that were home bound.

AS OF JUNE 30TH		2017	2018	2019	2020
TRASH	TON	155.05	142.47	144.63	159.21
CONSTRUCTION	TON	18.03	16.17	19.37	22.99
PAPER	TON	21.46	19.73	20.62	19.79
BOTTLES	TON	16.05	12.72	15.12	17.79
ELECTRONICS	TON	1.74	1.00	0.75	1.79

Report of the Washington Cultural Council

Activity Report for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

The Washington Cultural Council held its Annual Voting Meeting for FY2020 on November 30, 2019. Of the below-listed members, those in attendance were: Sean Connor, Deborah Connor, Jodi Hostetter and Stephanie Case.

Cultural Council Members

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Stephanie Case	Clerk	11/17/2018	11/17/2021
Deborah Connor	Member	08/19/2017	08/19/2020
Sean Connor	President	08/19/2017	08/19/2020
Jodi Hostetter	Treasurer	08/19/2019	08/19/2022
Eyal Shapira	Member	10/20/2018	10/20/2021

The Washington Cultural Council gives priority to:

- 1) Applicants that have secured a local venue
- 2) Projects that serve youth or the elderly
- 3) Projects that focus on community-oriented arts, humanities and science projects in and for the Washington community

In addition to the state criteria, applications are evaluated using the following review criteria:

- 1) How well the program meets our local priorities
- 2) Community support and involvement
- 3) Evidence of track record and dedication of the applicant
- 4) Financial need
- 5) Demonstrated planning

The Council received seventeen applications totaling \$8,275.00. Of the seventeen applications, fourteen were partially or fully funded with the \$5,950.00 available for granting.

Report of the Washington Cultural Council

FY2020 Grant Awards

Applicant	PROJECT	\$ AWARDED
Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	Open Studios Drive About	\$500
Becket Athenaeum	Museum Passes	\$250
Hilltown Families	Hilltown Families Suggests	\$100
Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	Changed: Summer Music	\$600
IS183 Art School of the Berkshires	IS183 Art School's Learning Through Arts (LTA) Pro	\$400
Berkshire Music School	Music Enrichment Programs at Becket Washington Sch	\$400
WAM Theatre	WAM Theatre Season of Events 2020	\$250
Berkshire Pulse	Intro to Dance at Nessacus	\$400
Puzzled Escape Games	The Box From The Future	\$200
Berkshire Lyric Theatre, Inc.	Educational Programs and Concerts	\$300
Music In Common	Amplify Berkshires	\$200
Becket Washington School	Mystic Aquarium Field Trip	\$1,500
Raianne Richards	Community Concert with the Massachusetts Walking T	\$250
Becket Washington School PTO	Free Carnival Themed Childrens Event during Brouhaha	\$600
TOTALS		\$5,950.00

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Hostetter, Treasurer

Report of the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee

Brief History

In 1986, the Town was notified that a gift was left to the Town in trust under the will of Emma A. Bailey. The amount at the time was \$12,507.18 with final distribution of trust was \$13,369.72 including interest earned. Subsequently the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee was formed. For the past 30 years granting scholarships to support Washington seniors in their academic endeavors.

Once a year the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee reviews applications from the graduating seniors living in the town who are preparing to continue their education. Even though the scholarships granted aren't that large, the Town is proud to know they've been able to acknowledge the seniors, who are certainly appreciative of the support.

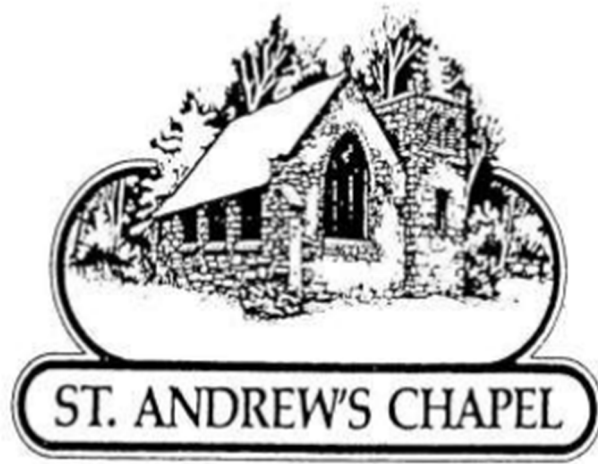
Class of 2020 Recipient

Ian Graham
Colby Lennon

Central Berkshire Regional School District Representative Michael Case presented Hannah with her award at the Wahconah High School Awards Night Ceremony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Drugmand
Richard Spencer
Kimberly Sinopoli
Jodi Hostetter



FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

St. Andrews Chapel was used in July for a memorial service for long-time Washington resident - Roy Wiley

In December the chapel was rented for caroling with the hat being passed to collect additional funds for the maintenance of the chapel.

In April despite the pandemic, we were happy to have a small socially distanced wedding.

Respectfully submitted by

Rose Borgnis, Chapel Committee Chair

Report of the Washington Council on Aging

FY2020 Annual Report of Activities

We were able to continue our weekly exercise classes at the town hall – Yoga on Tuesdays with instructor Rima Sala, Osteoporosis class on Thursdays led by Lorraine Morissette and Tai Chi/Qi Gong class on Fridays led by Barbara Keyes - until the March 2020 state of emergency was declared due to the spread of Covid-19. The isolation and lack of participation in group exercise classes has been especially hard on our seniors.

Our monthly pot luck dinners took place at the town hall with Steve Deloye being grill master at our September dinner. Our Holiday party in December was held at the Becket General Store. Thirty-three seniors attended and all reported a great meal and a wonderful time.

In January I attended a presentation offered by the Berkshire District Attorney's office on financial scams. The information I received was relayed to the attendees of our monthly pot luck dinner in February, which ended up being our last dinner for the year.

Respectfully Submitted

Rose Borgnis CCA Chairperson

Annual Report of the Washington Historical Commission

The Historical Committee has lost a dear friend and member, with the passing of Jan Nelson on February 2, 2020. Jan was a member of the committee for several years and could always be counted on for sound and thoughtful comments and participation. We will miss her singularly sparkling smile that she maintained throughout her battle with cancer. We are grateful for her participation and our friendships and time with her.

The town's 575 historical items were returned to the town toward the end of 2019 by Digital Commonwealth via the Boston Public Library, who processed our town's old photos and ephemera. These digitized materials are now on line at <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>. Look for the Washington Historical Commission Collection. With the return of our masters, we will be providing mini, revolving samples of our historical photos on the Historical Committee's bulletin board, now located in the hall way outside the Town Clerk's office and meeting room. Importantly, we will end up with these files and original photos and ephemera preserved, filed, and readily retrievable in the Washington Historical Room.

During the past year we received many inquiries regarding past residents, houses, and sites. We have received some negatives of photos from a Windsor neighbor Martin F. Glendon, His father, Martin Glendon, was a hill-town reporter for the Berkshire Eagle. The negatives are of three Washington sites and residents; the most recent submittal is of celebrated poet and neighbor, Ruth Hutchinson. The committee will look at converting some of the negatives, in the coming year.

Thanks for your continued support!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Washington Historical Commission,

David Weissbrod - Chair

Report of the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee

The Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee works to preserve, protect and enhance the special qualities and outstanding natural resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities. Appointed representatives from Becket, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Savoy, Washington, Windsor and Worthington meet monthly with representatives from the National Park Service, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and others. Project funding is provided through The National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

This year, the committee supported a land conservation project in Plainfield undertaken by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Additionally, upgrades to the East Branch Trail in Chesterfield were funded by the committee. Old wooden box culverts were replaced by stone swales that allow storm water to safely flow across the old road bed.

A screening of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival was held in Chesterfield with committee funding. This featured a juried selection from the national festival that is available for communities to review.

The committee made significant progress on completing a new Stewardship Plan for the river that will help guide the activities of the committee for years to come. Two representatives, Keystone Arch Bridges in Becket and Middlefield and the Chester Railway Station were nominated by the National Park Service for National Historic Landmark Status in September 2020 with the designation happening in January 2021 ending a multiyear effort by the committee, in particular, David Pierce of Chester.

The committee met with fisheries biologists from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and were informed that the cold, clear Westfield River and its tributaries are among the finest in Massachusetts for native Brook trout habitat.

The committee's outreach and education efforts were hampered this year due to the pandemic. Our outreach coordinator, Meredyth Babcock went on line producing a series of informative walks with ecologists Russ Cohen and John Burns. These short videos are available on the website www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org. Meredyth

Report of the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee

worked with interns from Westfield State on invasive plant mapping and eradication focusing on Center Pond in Becket. She is testing a new technique for Japanese Knotweed control in Cummington. In Washington, Wild and Scenic signs were installed by Ed Neumuth and the interns on Watson Brook, Savery Brook and Depot Brook.

The Committee meets once a month (currently remotely) and all meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to take part in any of our sponsored activities, including stream teams, river cleanup, land protection and workshops. To learn more about what's happening in the watershed, we invite you to visit our newly updated website www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org

If you would like more information, please contact Washington's committee representative Ed Neumuth at 413-884-4961 or enumuth@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Neumuth



Volunteer & Projects coordinator Meredyth Babcock 2020 Summary

In 2020 we began a multi-year project to map and remove invasive plants on designated headwater streams in the Westfield River Watershed. We continue to assist with projects focused on trail development, signage and river access. Developing a strong rapport with landowners, organizations and community members is ongoing. Our main focus in 2020 was along the West Branch and its tributaries. I met with landowners to gain permission to remove invasive plants on six contiguous parcels. Due to the restrictions of gatherings I am developing a library of short videos that inform, educate and inspire our community members. These films will help our volunteers develop skills, recognize invasive species, valuable native plants and significant riparian habitats. Links on our web site. <https://www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org/>

Summarized list of 2020 accomplishments:

1. “Vernal Pools Plunge” March 7th with Charlie Eiseman. A collaboration with “Hilltowns Land Trust” continues. HLT has formally taken over the tracking of this program.
2. Highlands Footpath and Wild & Scenic information will be included on the newly installed Kiosk at the Chester/ Blandford State Forest parking area on route 20. Highlands Footpath was blazed from Round Hill Rd. to the Newman Marsh trail head.
3. Clearing and maintenance to the Gobble Mountain “Unkamits Path” segment of the Highlands Footpath in Chester MA.
4. Ongoing support for reps. & community members interested in a comprehensive design, to prevent invasive species, for the Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge, Bisbee Mill parcel.
5. Assisted the Highlands Footpath with their 50th anniversary grant project by identifying locations, tracking progress, communicating with stakeholders, and coordinating the stone swale project. A three min. video was produced and is available in our web site.
6. Assisted Washington Rep. Ed Neumuth by identifying locations, mapping and installing signs where the Wild & Scenic segments pass under roadways.
7. Met with students from Westfield University to assist in their project development along the Westfield River. Offered the use of the W&S GPS units and new intern laptop (Made possible through a grant from the WRWA).
8. Removed 2,210 invasive plants from Center Pond Brook, a Wild & Scenic designated headwater stream in Becket MA. and mapped invasive plants on Savory Brook.
9. A grant was received to improve beaver passage under route 8 along Center Pond Brook in the town of Becket with no cost to the town or committee.
10. In 2020 we began producing educational & inspirational videos for our Wild & Scenic community

Details of events, projects and planning from 2020

Travel the Watershed Suitcases and Yearbook

The Travel the Watershed suitcases had a quiet time in Meredyth Babcock basement due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The committee voted to suspend the “End of the Year Report” (Yearbook) during the strategic planning process

Design & outreach

In 2020 we collaborated with the Rivers Alliance and Great Barrington Land conservancy. We had planned a shared volunteer event with Russ Cohen in 2019 but when the pandemic hit it was to be canceled. I proposed that we film Russ Cohens edible plant presentation. After filming, it was decided short clips would be preferable to an hour and twenty min. video. The footage was then edited into a five-part series, made possible through a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. This series was shared first on the GBLC web site then shared with the W&S email list. Links are now available on our website.

Expanding our reach beyond the ten communities that have designation, allows us to reach a broader audience. The video library will work to educate the local community members on practical steps and best management practices. I have invited them to propose topics they wish to learn more about. The short film library we are developing, will be a valuable tool through this time of isolation and for years to come. Not replacing our in the field offerings but augmenting it

I continue to offer the Wild & Scenic Committee as a resource to our ten communities, with advice, funds to facilitate exploration, protection and preservation. Community members throughout the watershed see the Wild & Scenic committee as a beneficial organization. Over the years I have seen community members, in all of the ten towns we serve, grow in their understanding of the committee's position as a partner that directly benefits their community.

Answering questions, offering advice and addressing concerns from community members continues to be a large part of my work.

Advertising and articles

Our work along the Center Pond Brook was covered by WGBY, The Country Journal and emailed to ten other news organizations. Event notices are sent to town representatives (with a request to share them, via email, with town officials). All events are emailed to town offices.

All volunteers and community members who have participated in previous events, trainings or workdays, and have made their emails available, receive emails updating them & inviting them to enjoy our short videos. We held one Training early in the year and one workday in Aug. due to Covid 19 pandemic.

Fostering relationships with the communities we serve, increasing their understanding of how their actions and decisions impact the river and in the long term shapes their community is ongoing. I attended all Municipal Vulnerability planning sessions that involved the ten communities with Wild & Scenic designation. The best advertising continues to be word of mouth and the sharing of stunning photos captured by river enthusiasts.

Interns and education

We had two Wild & Scenic Interns in 2020. Both were students from The Westfield University. They produced maps of Center Pond Brook in Becket and Savory Brook in Washington. These are two important designated headwater streams of the West Branch of the Westfield River. The interns studied native wetland plants and learned to identify the most egregious invasive plants with John Burns, who was hired to instruct us. In addition, John Burns agreed to be filmed so the committee could produce short educational videos.

The Interns successfully applied for a permit through the Becket Conservation commission to begin work on Center Pond Brook and began the permitting process for Savory Brook in Washington MA. The W&S committee received a laptop and software, to produce maps and track projects, from the Westfield River Watershed Association.

Throughout the invasive plant removal project, we captured footage, some of which was used to produce short educational videos teaching methods of invasive plant removal through instructive videos. We also encouraged community members to share their methods with the committee and reminded them that all work in resource areas needs to be permitted through their local conservation commission. [List of plants and numbers removed in 2020](#)

A grant was received to improve beaver passage under route 8 along Center Pond Brook in the town of Becket with no cost to the town or committee.

Tributaries enhancement and protection

In 2019 I reached out to Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge to discuss their acquisition of the Bisbee Mill site. This property sits adjacent to the Dead Branch, a major tributary of the East Branch of the Westfield River. A number of community members have inquired as to the status and showed concern that the property could become overrun with invasive plants if a restoration plan is not put in place. In 2020 Carl Cignoni and I walked the property. The Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge has expressed an interest in collaborating with a local organization and may have some funding if a plan is proposed.

We have identified a number of locations where propane tanks are placed within the riparian area and could prove problematic during increased high flows.

A community burn party for the disposal of invasive plants and/or a method to transport plantmatter to an

incinerator is in development but was postponed due to Covid 19

Collaborations with other organizations, individuals and institutions

We continue to strengthen our partnerships with The Westfield River Watershed Association, The Nature Conservancy, The Trustees of Reservations, MASS Fish & Wildlife, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Hilltown's Land Trust, The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Western Mass Invasive Species Partnership and the Friends of the Keystone Arches.

Highlands Footpath Collaborative

This year I continued to attend meetings and support the work of the Highlands Footpath Collaborative. The Wild & Scenic committee continues to support the development of a long-distance footpath through the towns and along segments of the river with Wild & Scenic designation.

The East Branch Trail Swale Project was slow to move forward as communication within DCR's many branches caused some delays. It is unclear if DCR intends to come forward with their own funding or plan to address the poor parking available and expanding degradation along the road caused by vehicles parking wherever they wish. On Oct 14th Aaron Rutz began working on the Stone Swales and a short video of their completion is available on our website. These will be monitored over the coming year to see if it is a viable method for moving water across the trail. A method of hanging trail blazes, that is less intrusive to the trees, was proposed by intern William Hurlbut. This process was filmed and will be edited and monitored for success in 2021

Mass. Fish & Wildlife Trail enhancement and protection

Fish and Wildlife installed a gate to protect the Keystone Arch Bridge Trail Access. The location that I suggested was not possible due to ownership issues. The present location is, unfortunately, causing some unintended use of the last remaining parcel in the valley. I suggest that the committee works to resolve the landowner issues at the trail head so that a gate can eventually be placed in a more desirable location.

- The new parking area for the KABT needs a clear boundary and signage discouraging vehicles from driving down the trail head. Damage to the riparian area is taking place, as people stop and turn around.

*Allen Williams, Chester Quarry, had proposed designing two descents to the river to reduce erosion and repair eroded areas in 2018. Unfortunately, he is no longer available for the design portion of this project. He is however interested in bidding to build an erosion control descent should a design be produced.

Review of “Walkin’ the Watershed” comprehensive walks of designated segments
(* This portion is from the 2019 report, included here for new committee members)

In 2014 I proposed that we begin a process that would result in all 78 designated miles having a full visual survey with data collected by 2019.

In 2014 we began on the designated river segments along the Upper East Branch (Savoy, Windsor and Cummington) We then walked the upper Middle Branch (Worthington, Middlefield & Chester) in 2015. The West Branch and its tributaries (Washington & Becket) were walked in 2016.

In 2017 we returned to the lower East Branch and walked from three miles north of route 143 in Chesterfield to the confluence of the Middle Branch in Huntington. We then continued down to within one mile of the West Branch where all three join together. In 2019 we walked the last stretch between route 9 in Cummington to route 143 in Chesterfield.

In 2018 we walked the lower West Branch (from the Arch Bridges in Chester to the center of Huntington. Ending at the confluence of the West & East Branch. A complete set of visual survey data with photos and all 78 designated river miles have been walked by our summer interns, landowners, community members and myself. In addition, over 38 miles of undesignated tributaries have been walked and documented with visual surveys.

The “Walking the Watershed” program will be reassessed at the end of 2019 beginning of 2020 by the committee to decide how best to proceed. Perhaps this module of walking sections with an open invitation to landowners and community members will turn out to be the best, most comprehensive as well as the safest model, due to the remote nature of many of the designated segments.

The segment walks with interns, community members and landowners, serves two purposes: First it allows us to gather data on an entire reach in one season and helps us prepare for the yearly Watershed Blitz. During this exploration we are able to identify locations for each of the invited specialists. Specialists are chosen based on what community members are most curious about or on areas that we believe will most likely benefit a particular tributary.

Secondly it allows us to invite landowners to join us, explore & learn along with us and perhaps host a specialist during the public Blitz event. This deepens our knowledge of the designated segments and those who live along its banks. Many of whom have spent years observing and stewarding their land and its riparian area.

I was able to secure a free pro membership on the Flickr site in 2019, which will keep our data more secure. Many of the folders need to be moved to this location. This could be a task or focus for one the intern’s through the winter of 2020/2021 or in the Spring of 2021.

Report of the Parks Commission

Residents of Washington,

The Town of Washington Parks Commission unfortunately was limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Several annual events including the Hilltown Brouhaha, Cops & Rodders Car Show and the Pumpkin Walk were cancelled in 2020. However, the Parks Commission took the opportunity to work on some park improvements. Thanks to our amazing volunteers and donations from Will Beemer, Brad Morse, the Heartwood School and Mark Roos our new park sign was completed in 2020. Other park improvements included maintenance activities, as well as, the addition of new park picnic tables & grills. At the end of 2020, Jodi Hostetter continued the tradition of the Christmas Tree Lighting with some modifications. The Park Commission hopes to reopen and reestablish community events at the town park in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic Sinopoli, Chairman

Dave Drugmand

Mark Roos

Ed Neumuth

Jodi Hostetter

Report of the Becket Athenaeum

Becket Athenaeum 2020 Report to the Becket/Washington Community

At the Becket Athenaeum, our commitment to serving the communities of Becket and Washington remains strong and focused. During FY2020, we continued to provide outstanding library services and high-quality after-school programming as a result of appropriations received from the towns of Becket and Washington toward both operating and capital expenses, as well as the Fairfield County Community Trust and the Feigenbaum Foundation, which continued to support our after-school programs. Our local LCCs (Local Cultural Council) from both Becket and Washington have provided support for the museum passes to local attractions we provide to our patrons all year long. The Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation continued to fund our evening workshops, as well as contributing towards our after-school programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the closure of the Athenaeum, therefore preventing in-library services to the community. Athenaeum staff worked and deliberated hard to implement a safe curbside materials pickup plan for our patrons, including virtual browsing via video conferencing apps and pre-recorded videos, and a brand-new website with virtual browsing pages by topic of interest. The Athenaeum also shifted to the virtual programming that necessarily defines the bulk of 2020, with the expectation that this will continue into 2021. During the warm summer months, Athenaeum staff ran our Summer Reading Program, as well as a weekly outdoor Story & Craft Time for families, co-sponsored with the Becket Arts Center. We also hosted an in-person, outdoor, family event, Japanese Folktale Storytelling by professional storyteller, Motoko Dworkin. In fall 2020, the library reopened for patrons by an appointment system, following stringent disinfecting, distancing, and masking protocols. While the majority of patrons have chosen to continue with curbside service, the reopening was a welcome change for the community.

In FY2020, our after-school programming continued to offer academic support to elementary and middle school students. The ACE (Academic, Collaboration, and Enrichment) program serves the needs of students from the local elementary and middle school with nutritious snacks, help with homework, extra math and reading practice tailored to each student, and other educational enrichment activities. This fully-funded (and free to families) program is filled by applicants with a demonstrated academic need along with teacher recommendations. Jodi Shafiroff, our director and after-school program coordinator, managed this academic support program which serves up to 14 students on a single day with the help of a mix of 6 adult volunteers, 7 staff, and several high school interns. We have continued our ongoing line of communication with the Becket Washington School teachers and administration to ensure our program is meeting each child's needs as they change throughout the school year. As of March 2020, the after-school programming shifted to virtual tutoring, with a smaller group of students enrolled, as some families had limited internet accessibility and many were overwhelmed with the increase in daily screen-time. Athenaeum staff has been pleased to continue to make a difference in students' educational work and goals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The families of our after-school students help support our program by donating time at the library or making a donation to our annual appeal. We also offer grant-funded, paid internships for high school students to work in either the after-school program or in the library, helping with various tasks. We were pleased to be able to have interns working with us during the Athenaeum's outdoor family summer programming. This internship is often a teen's first paid job and the mentoring and new job skills are invaluable to them and are vital piece of our community outreach.

The Athenaeum continued our partnership with the Dalton CRA as well as the Becket Washington School in FY2020 to provide an affordable after-school program to help working families in our community with after-school care. This is the third State-accredited Kids' Club program managed by the Dalton CRA. This program offers affordable childcare five days per week during the school year. BWS Kids' Club is held at the Becket Washington School and is partially funded by a generous grant through the Fairfield County Community Fund. Families have a low \$5/day/child contribution fee. When COVID-19 restrictions continued into the 2020-21 school year, the Athenaeum funded Becket and Washington students' participation in the CRA's new Educational Support Program, which offered in-person, internet-ready, support for students on the days that their school was virtual.

Our Friday Enrichment (FE) program continued through March 2020 with a focus on Geography Through Food and Culture, to include geographical map work, cooking, music, dance, and language from each country of focus. We continued to work with the Berkshire Outdoor Center as part of the Friday Enrichment program as well as our summer camp scholarship offering to local school children at the beginning of FY2020. We would again like to acknowledge the

Report of the Becket Athenaeum

YMCA Berkshire Outdoor Center for their continued support and partnership in FY2020, and look forward to our ongoing co-sponsored programming.

Our Story Craft program for the pre-school age group continued as a STEAM exploration program. This program meets for an hour on the second, third and fourth Tuesdays each month and is managed by Wendy Provencher, the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement coordinator for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Wendy's position is funded through a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. When the COVID-19 quarantine hit in March 2020, this program was suspended until further notice, but we look forward to its return in 2021.

The Athenaeum staff enjoys hosting BWS class field trips to help foster a love of reading, a familiarity with the library as a source of community (as well as books) and to support the BWS teachers in their needs for their classrooms and students. It is our mission that this continues as an ongoing community outreach and educational supplement for local students. Therefore, we have offered to supply library materials directly to the teachers and classrooms throughout the COVID-19 restricted months, as well as organizing virtual book readings, as fits into their classroom schedules. We heartily look forward to resuming the in-person program once state pandemic restrictions allow in 2021.

The Athenaeum, along with the Becket Arts Center, Becket Washington School PTO, Congregational Church, Fire Department, and members of the Washington Community continue to work together as the BWCP (Becket Washington Community Partnership). These organizations have worked together to make the Hilltown Brouhaha a community event with something for everyone! We received a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation-Central Berkshire Fund in December 2019 to support this event for the fifth year in 2020, but then the pandemic made canceling the event necessary. The BTCF-Central Berkshire Fund board approved a Change in Usage of Grant Funds in late winter 2020 and BWCP's financial contribution made a significant increase in funding for the local food pantry located at the Becket Federated Church.

We have a dynamic book club group that meets on the first Tuesday of each month. This group is open to all interested in discussing literature, new and old, with the hot or cold beverage of your choice. We are pleased that the group has been able to continue to meet virtually as well as outdoors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are open to suggestions for group activities of interest to our patrons.

In 2020, we continued to work on the septic system assessment project. Hill Engineering was contracted to perform the necessary technical aspects of this project. Working with Athenaeum Trustee Chair, Cathy DeFoe, Hill completed the plans for the Athenaeum system to be connected to the town's repaired system, coordinated the permitting review with the Board of Health, the legal agreement with the town, and assisted in soliciting contractors and scheduling the work, which was successfully completed in November 2020. We also were pleased to complete the first half of the Athenaeum's new signage plans. Our new "Becket Athenaeum: Becket & Washington Community Library" signs were designed and made by staff member, Dawn Greene. They now hang on both the Rt 8 facing and the parking lot facing sides of the library. Once the pandemic ends, new signage with the library's hours will be the second phase of our updated signage project, also to be hung on front and back sides of the Athenaeum.

The Athenaeum continues to receive grant funds from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for a series of nine to twelve workshops that were held at the Athenaeum on evenings during the winter, spring, and fall of FY2020. These workshops were led by local presenters/educators in basketmaking, holiday cookie baking, fiber arts, plant & wild edible identification. We also hosted author readings and frequent movie nights for adults. The workshops were well-attended and provided information on a wide range of interesting topics for our community.

In spring and summer 2020, the Athenaeum completed our 2020 action plan goal of a community-wide survey. This was our very first online survey, shared to the community via links in our monthly newsletters, the towns' monthly newsletters, flyers, and social media posts. We were very pleased with the nearly 200 responses to the survey and spent the remainder of the summer and fall reviewing the data collected. While the responses were overwhelmingly positive regarding our staff and meeting of traditional library needs, there is a clear mandate by respondents for a larger volume of adult workshops and presentations as well as subject-focused social groups. With this in mind, the Athenaeum staff and board have been reviewing our past and current programming and rewriting grants for 2021 with the intent to expand our role as the Becket Washington library and community center, as requested in the survey. We applied for a monetary increase in our grants to continue expanding the quantity and breadth for all adult and family workshops and

Report of the Becket Athenaeum

programming in 2021 and look forward to seeing more of our friends and neighbors at these sessions throughout the months ahead, both virtually, and in person when safe to do so.

As an independent non-profit organization, we rely on and so appreciate the many supportive groups that help us deliver the services and programs our community deserves from its library.

Our patrons, volunteers, donors, grantors, and the Towns of Becket and Washington all come together as our partners to make the organization a success and we sincerely thank you.

We look forward to seeing you at the Athenaeum!

2020 Staff

Jodi Shafiroff, Director and After-School Program Coordinator, ACE and FE

Ellen Manley, Head Librarian and FE assistant

Dawn Greene, Catalog Specialist

Maria Massaro, Assistant Librarian and ACE tutor

Emily Robinson, Assistant Librarian and ACE tutor

2020 Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Cathy DeFoe, Chair (Becket Resident)

Aaron Beatty, Vice-Chair (Becket Resident)

Robert Gross, Treasurer (Becket Resident)

Katherine Hoak (Becket Resident)

Denise Johns (Washington Resident)

Purr McEwen (Becket Resident)

Allison Mikaniewicz (Washington Resident)

Jeff Piemont (Becket Resident)

Report of the Green Communities Commission

Fiscal Year 2020

The Green Communities Committee formed this year in order to apply for Green Community designation for the Town of Washington. Once Washington has been designated, the town will be eligible for an initial grant of \$125,000 to be used for energy conservation projects in our town owned buildings. There are further grants available once the initial energy reduction plan has been completed.

The process will take some time as we need to look at our Solar Photovoltaic Zoning Bylaw passed in 2013 and make some amendments in order to qualify. We are working with the Planning Board in order to propose some changes to the bylaw that will be discussed and voted on at the next annual town meeting. Anyone interested in assisting in the efforts of the Green Communities Committee can contact David Drugmand at drugmand3@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Drugmand

Year End Cash Report - Fiscal Year 2020

PART I	
A. Cash and Checks in Office	110,367.23
B. Non-Interest Bearing Checking Account	0.00
C. Interest Bearing Checking Account	23,088.07
D. Liquid Investments	247,164.02
E. Term Investments	0.00
F. Trust Funds	193,889.53
Total: Cash and Investments	574,508.85

PART II

I hereby certify that the foregoing schedule, setting forth the total cash in the custody of the Treasurer, is in agreement with the general ledger controls

Signatures

Treasurer

I hereby certify that the bank statements have been reconciled through the date of this report, that the cash on hand and other items were verified by actual count, and that I have transmitted this form to the accounting officer for certification of Part II.

Jon D Lumbra, Treasurer , Washington , washingtontreasurer@gmail.com 413-623-5018 | 10/5/2020 7:02 PM

Accountant/Auditor

I hereby certify that the foregoing schedule, setting forth the total cash in the custody of the Treasurer, is either in agreement with the general ledger controls or efforts are being made to reconcile differences as noted in Part II above.

Lynne Lemanski, Town Accountant , Washington , washington.ma.acc@gmail.com 413-623-8878 | 12/9/2020 7:11 PM

Documents

Documents have been uploaded.

Cash Reconciliation for June 30 - Fiscal Year 2020

Total Treasurer's Cash and Investments (6/30 year-end report)	574,508.85
Other trust funds not in custody of Treasurer	0.00
Total Cash and Investments	574,508.85
Accountant's/Auditor's Cash and Investments (PER BALANCE SHEET)	
General Fund	313,549.82
Special Revenue Funds	19,144.34
Capital Projects Funds	57,045.85
Enterprise Funds	0.00
Trust and Agency Funds	184,768.85
Total per general ledger	574,508.86
Reconciling Items (specify)	
Warrants Payable	0.00
Petty Cash	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
Total Adjusted Accountant's/Auditor's Cash and Investments	574,508.86
Variance	-0.01

Signatures

Treasurer

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that this information is complete and accurate as of this date.

Jon D Lumbra, Treasurer , Washington , washingtontreasurer@gmail.com 413-623-5018 | 11/15/2020 11:01 AM

Accountant/Auditor

I hereby certify that the foregoing schedule, setting forth the total cash and investments in the general ledger, is either in agreement with the total cash in the custody of the Treasurer or efforts are being made to reconcile any variances.

Lynne Lemanski, Town Accountant , Washington , washington.ma.acc@gmail.com 413-623-8878 | 12/9/2020 7:11 PM

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

Automated Statement of Indebtedness (Summary) - Fiscal Year 2020

Long Term Debt - Inside Debt Limit	328,566.00
Long Term Debt - Outside Debt Limit	770,000.00
Total Long Term Debt	1,098,566.00
Total Short Term Debt	0.00
Total Long Term and Short Term Debt	1,098,566.00
Total Authorized and Unissued Debt	234,670.00

Signatures

Treasurer

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that this information is complete and accurate as of this date.

Lynne Baumgartner, Treasurer , Washington , washingtontreasurer@gmail.com 413-623-8878 | 1/5/2021 7:20 PM

Comment: Yes, I was appointed 12/14/2020

Accountant/Auditor

I certify that long and short term debt as identified in this Statement of Indebtedness is in agreement with the general ledger controls in my department and are also reflected on the balance sheet.

Lynne Lemanski, Town Accountant , Washington , washington.ma.acc@gmail.com 413-623-8878 | 1/4/2021 9:20 PM

Documents

Documents have been uploaded.

Town of Washington
Balance Sheet
General Fund
(Unaudited)

Account Name	Fiscal Years End June 30, 2020
Cash	313,550
Interfund Payable	(2,429)
Net Cash	311,121
Personal Property Tax Receivables	2,421
Real Estate Tax Receivables	231,849
Gross Receivable	234,270
Allow for Abts & Exemptions	(27,141)
Deferred Rev - Real & P. Prop.	(207,129)
Net	-
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Receivables	22,962
Deferred Rev - Motor Vehicle	(22,962)
Net	-
Tax Title	123,508
Tax Possessions	68,952
Total	192,460
Deferred Rev - Tax Liens	(192,460)
Net	-
Total Assets	311,121
Liabilities:	
Accrued Payroll	(6,112)
Fund Bal. Reserved for Encumb.	-
Fund Balance Designated for Expenditures	(78,000)
Fund Balance - Designated for Tax Rate Decrease	(15,000)
Fund Bal. Designated for Appropriation Carryovers	(87,406)
Restricted Fund Balance	-
Undesignated Fund Balance	(124,603)
Total Fund Balance	(311,121)

**Town of Washington
Balance Sheet
Special Revenue Accounts
(Unaudited)**

Account Name	Fiscal Years End June 30, 2020
---------------------	---------------------------------------

Capital Projects

Culvert Replacements & Small Bridge Middlefield Road

Capital Projects Cash	15,163
Capital Projects Undesignated Project Balance	(15,163)

Broadband Project:

Broadband Project Cash	41,883
Broadband Projects Undesignated Project Balance	(41,883)

Net Capital Projects:	-
------------------------------	----------

Special Revenue Cash	19,144
Interfund Payable	-
Net Cash	19,144

Federal Grants

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant	(1,759)
--	---------

State Grants

Public Safety Grants	13,635
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State Aid Chapter 90	6,451
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State Aid Chapter 90	581,115
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Deferred Revenue - Chapter 90 Apportionment	(581,115)
---	-----------

Arts Lottery Undesignated Fund	(8,702)
--------------------------------	---------

COA Grant Balance	48
-------------------	----

Library State Grant - Fund Balance	(2,142)
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MA Recycling Incentive	(473)
------------------------	-------

Community Compact Grant	(14,278)
-------------------------	----------

Receipts Reserved for Appropriation

Cons Comm RCTS Reserved	(553)
-------------------------	-------

Cemetery Plot Purchases	(800)
-------------------------	-------

Parks Undesignated Fund Balance	(3,608)
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Historical Undesignated Fund Balance	(640)
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Revolving Funds

Historical Revolving	(1,056)
----------------------	---------

Fire Inspection Revolving	(30)
---------------------------	------

Electrical Inspector Revolving	(120)
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Plumb/Heat/Gas Revolving	(110)
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COA Revolving	(142)
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Town Park Revolving	(360)
---------------------	-------

St. Andrews Revolving	(4,505)
-----------------------	---------

(19,145)

**Town of Washington
Balance Sheet
(Unaudited)**

Account Name

Fiscal Years End June 30, 2020

Non-Expendable Trust Funds

Trust Fund Cash	165,368
Emma Bailey Cash	15,572
Interfund Receivable (Payable)	2,429
Net Cash	183,369

Stabilization Undesignated Fund Balance	(166,069)
Stabilization Restricted Fund Balance (Cemetery)	(1,728)
Emma Bailey Undesignated Fund	(15,572)
	(183,369)

Agency Funds

Agency Cash	3,830
Accrued Payroll (Tax collector fees)	(560)
Police Detail Revolving	(480)
Pistol Permit Revolving	(2,513)
Becket beach Stickers	5
Tax collector fees	5
Tax Collector Deputy Charges	(287)
	-

Long-Term Debt

Highway Truck	-
Highway Truck & Plow	21,156
Culverts	307,410
Broadband Debt	770,000
Total LT Debt	(1,098,566)

Loans Authorized

Culvert Design	30,000.00
Culvert Replacement	204,670.00
Loans Authorized but Unissued	(234,670)
Bonds Authorized	-
Bonds Authorized but Unissued	-
Culvert Design	
Culvert Replacement	

**Town of Washington
Income Statement
(Unaudited)**

Fiscal Year End June 30, 2020

General Fund

Revenues

Taxes

Personal Property Taxes	33,306
Real Estate Taxes	1,176,333
Excise Taxes	95,077
Penalties and Interest	12,867
In Lieu of Taxes	110,367
Hotel/Motel Excise	1,361
TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)	<u>1,429,311</u>

Charges for Services/Other Departmental Revenues

Other Charges	
Trash Collection Charges	2,255
Other Departmental Revenues	65
TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES	<u>2,320</u>

TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	<u>15,007</u>
TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE	<u>194,627</u>

Revenues From Other Governments

Court Fines	988
Received From the County for Services Performed	
Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	4,500
TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	<u>5,488</u>

Miscellaneous Revenues

Miscellaneous Revenues	11,419
Earnings on Investments	2,353
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	<u>13,772</u>
Transfers from Trust Funds	6,775

TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	<u><u>1,667,300</u></u>
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**Town of Washington
Income Statement
(Unaudited)**

Fiscal Year End June 30, 2020

Expenditures by Department

General Government

Select Board and Legislative	35,633
Accounting	16,105
Tax Collecting	17,034
Treasury	18,526
Legal	3,180
Town Property Building & Maintenance	56,570
Tax Assessing	26,086
Operational Support	4,453
License & Registration	11,052
Conservation Commission	140
Land Use	755
Total General Government	<u>189,534</u>

Public Safety

Police	24,190
Fire	24,608
Inspection	4,904
Other	800
Total Public Safety	<u>54,502</u>

Education

Regional School Assessment	715,859
Vocational Education & Transportation	1,808
Total Education	<u>717,667</u>

Public Works

Highway - Winter Roads	113,079
Highway -Other	356,858
Transfer Station	37,325
Other	
Total Public Works	<u>507,262</u>

Human Services	
Health Services	3,515
Clinical Services	3,750
Veteran's Services	6,580
Special Programs	1,618
Total Human Services	<u>15,463</u>
Cultural & Recreation	
Library	8,721
Parks	3,780
Historial	2,214
Total Cultural & Recreation	<u>14,715</u>
Debt Service	
Retirement of Principal	54,414
Interest on LT Debt	17,919
Interest on ST Debt	7,337
Other Interest	400
Total Debt Service	<u>80,070</u>
Other	
Unemployment Expense	-
Health Insurance	63,359
Other Insurance	12,254
Retirement	30,299
State Government Charges	473
Other	2,250
Total Other Expenditures	<u>108,635</u>
Net Transfers to Other Funds	12,000
Total General Government	1,699,848
Excess (Deficit) Revenues over Expenditures	(32,548)
Net Increase to General Fund Balance	<u><u>(32,548)</u></u>

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS
MAY 8, 2019**

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020, with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Selectboard's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting approval in May 2020 for funding for these services and/or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 1 passed unanimously

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6%, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 2 passed by majority voice vote

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to accept a donation of the following property, to wit,
Berkshire Mountain Lakes Development, Unit 2, Lot No. 4 in Block No. 5 as described in
The Middle District of Berkshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 2023, Page 332.

Article 3 passed unanimously

Article 4: To see if the Selectmen shall be an agent for the Town in defense of any suits for, and on behalf of the Town, and to adjust all claims for damage against the Town, and to choose an agent, or pass any vote thereon.

Article 4 passed unanimously

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and to issue a note or notes therefore payable within one year, in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44 of the General Laws, also temporary loans under Provision 6A, Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

Article 5 passed unanimously

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108, Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as amended, all salaries to be effective as of July 1, 2019:

a. Town Clerk	\$8,403.00
b. Assessors - Chairperson	\$3,921.00
c. Assessors - Clerk	\$3,530.00
d. Assessors – 3 rd Member	\$ 0.00
e. Selectmen - Chairperson	\$2,487.00
f. Selectmen - Clerk	\$2,487.00
g. Selectmen – 3 rd Member	\$2,487.00

h. Moderator-----\$ 73.00

Article 6 passed unanimously

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,388.00 for Elected Officers' salaries.

Article 7 passed unanimously

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$147,446.00 for general government accounts to be appropriated as follows:

a. Reserve Account-----	\$15,000.00
b. Town Counsel Yearly Retainer -----	\$ 4,000.00
c. Town Counsel's Expenses -----	\$ 150.00
d. Administrative Assistant Salary-----	\$16,900.00
e. Selectmen's Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
f. Planning Board Expenses -----	\$ 400.00
g. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission-----	\$ 429.00
h. Assessors' Consulting Services -----	\$13,183.00
i. Assessors' Expenses-----	\$ 2,000.00
j. Assessors' Computer Services -----	\$ 3,395.00
k. Tax Map Maintenance-----	\$ 3,300.00
l. Appointed Treasurer Salary-----	\$14,281.00
m. Treasurer's Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
n. Treasurer's Tax Title Expense -----	\$ 1,500.00
o. Interest and Issuance on Short-Term Notes-----	\$ 3,000.00
p. Insurance (Workman's Comp. & general property)--	\$ 8,405.00
q. Medicare Taxes for Town Employees-----	\$ 4,200.00
r. Auditing Expenses-----	\$ 6,000.00
s. Accounting Officer Salary -----	\$14,118.00
t. Accounting Officer Expenses-----	\$ 200.00
u. Accounting Software (Vadar)-----	\$ 2,195.00
v. Appointed Tax Collector Salary -----	\$10,700.00
w. Assistant Tax Collector's Salary -----	\$ 2,000.00
x. Tax Collector's Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
y. Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
z. Town Clerk's Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
aa. Clerk of Board of Registrars -----	\$ 100.00
bb. Computer Support – Accessible Voting-----	\$ 1,200.00
cc. Records Preservation Account-----	\$ 2,500.00
dd. Town Reports and Postage -----	\$ 1,000.00
ee. Finance Committee Expenses-----	\$ 200.00
ff. Moderator's Expenses -----	\$ 50.00
gg. Conservation Commission -----	\$ 300.00
hh. Zoning Enforcement Officer's Expense Account ----	\$ 1,000.00
ii. Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses -----	\$ 240.00

Article 8 passed unanimously

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with other cities, towns, and political subdivisions for the group purchasing of supplies, commodities, and services that the town is authorized by law to purchase, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600.00 as the town's share of the expenses for the administration of the Berkshire Region Group Purchasing program for Fiscal Year 2020.

Article 9 passed unanimously

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,139.00 for Capital Costs of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Becket-Washington School (Debt Exclusion) FY25 --- \$29,408.00
- b. Wahconah Regional High School – Renovation, FY29\$ 3,377.00
- c. Craneville Roof, FY23----- \$ 0.00
- d. Kittridge Windows, FY22 ----- \$ 153.00
- e. Craneville HVAC, FY22 ----- \$ 0.00
- f. Security Updates, FY25 ----- \$ 380.00
- g. Wahconah Regional High School –Sidewalk, FY22 --- \$ 362.00
- h. WRHS Feasibility Study, FY22 ----- \$ 459.00

Article 10 passed unanimously

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District budget for the 2020 fiscal year, as adopted on March 14, 2019, by two thirds vote of the Regional School Committee, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$663,112.00 for the operation of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Minimum Contribution ----- \$469,988.00
- b. Transportation Assessment----- \$ 24,854.00
- c. Basic Budget Balance----- \$168,270.00

Article 11 passed by majority voice vote

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,757.00 for Vocational Education Tuition to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Vocational Education Tuition----- \$ 18,000.00
- b. Vocational Education Transportation----- \$ 12,000.00
- c. Vocational Education Vehicle Insurance----- \$ 757.00

Article 12 passed unanimously

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 541,085.00 for the Highway Department to be appropriated as follows:

a. Salaries -----	\$142,500.00
b. Winter Road Overtime-----	\$ 13,370.00
c. Non-Winter Overtime-----	\$ 5,571.00
d. Road & Bridge Maintenance-----	\$ 65,000.00
e. Winter Snow & Ice Removal-----	\$105,000.00
f. Engineering Consultation-----	\$ 8,100.00
g. Tree Work-----	\$ 10,000.00
h. Fuel-----	\$ 20,000.00
i. Machinery Repair-----	\$ 25,000.00
j. General Maintenance, Tools & Supplies-----	\$ 27,000.00
k. Highway Department Operating Expenses-----	\$ 16,000.00
l. Highway Equipment Insurance-----	\$ 13,545.00
m. Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share)-----	\$ 59,700.00
n. Unemployment Account-----	\$ 0.00
o. Berkshire County Retirement-----	\$ 30,299.00

Article 13 passed unanimously

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,809.00 for health and safety accounts to be appropriated as follows:

a. Becket Fire Department – fire protection -----	\$ 15,000.00
b. Becket Firemen’s Association -----	\$ 250.00
c. Police Chief Salary-----	\$ 11,425.00
d. Police Department Expenses -----	\$ 2,600.00
e. Police Department Telecommunication-----	\$ 4,056.00
f. Police Coverage for Pumpkin Walk -----	\$ 320.00
g. Police and Fire Department Insurance-----	\$ 7,000.00
h. Enhanced 911 -----	\$ 9,608.00
i. Animal Control Officer Reimbursements -----	\$ 800.00
j. Animal Control Officer Expenses -----	\$ 1,000.00
k. Board of Health Expenses -----	\$ 5,250.00
l. Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance)-----	\$ 3,750.00
m. Public Health Nurse-----	\$ 1,750.00
n. Building Inspector Salary -----	\$ 4,500.00
o. Building Inspector Expenses -----	\$ 500.00

Article 14 passed unanimously

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,621.00 for services to the Washington community to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Sons and Daughters Reunion -----\$ 500.00
- b. Historical Commission ----- \$ 400.00
- c. Veteran's Aid ----- \$ 6,500.00
- d. Veteran's Services Inter-Municipal Agreement ----- \$ 2,250.00
- e. Council on Aging ----- \$ 1,500.00
- f. Donation to the Becket Athenaeum ----- \$ 8,721.00
- g. Becket Athenaeum Capital ----- \$ 2,000.00
- h. Washington TRACKS----- \$ 2,250.00
- i. Becket Beach----- \$ 2,500.00
- j. Wired West Dues ----- \$ 1,000.00

Article 15 passed unanimously

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,360.00 for operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Operating Expenses-----\$26,000.00
- b. Attendant Labor----- \$ 8,789.00
- c. Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Municipal District-- \$ 2,071.00
- d. Facility Maintenance----- \$ 1,500.00

Article 16 passed unanimously

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 80,340.00 to pay notes and interest due on the following:

- a. Plow Truck, FY20 ----- \$20,400.00
- b. Culverts, FY33----- \$35,000.00
- c. 5500 Plow & Sander, FY23----- \$ 8,000.00
- e. Last-Mile Fiber Network, FY34 (debt exclusion)----- \$16,940.00

Article 17 passed unanimously

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 31,948.00 for the following buildings, grounds, and equipment accounts:

- a. Town Buildings Operating Expenses----- \$13,000.00
- b. Town Hall Repair and Maintenance----- \$ 5,500.00
- c. Custodian Reimbursement----- \$ 3,647.00
- d. Maintenance Coordinator Reimbursement----- \$ 551.00
- e. Town Office Equipment and Support----- \$ 2,500.00
- f. Town Offices Supplies and Services----- \$ 1,000.00
- g. Historical Properties Repairs and Maintenance----- \$ 2,000.00
- h. Stained Glass Restoration – St. Andrew's Chapel----- \$ 1,500.00
- i. Town Park----- \$ 2,250.00
- j. Cemetery Headstone Repairs----- \$ 0.00

Article passed unanimously

Article 19: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$70.00 to cover a prior year expense for FY18 incurred under Selectmen's Expenses for attendance at a BRPC event.

Article 19 passed by unanimous hand vote

Article 20: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$62,000.00 to replace the truck bed on the International 4800 heavy-duty plow truck.

Article 20 passed unanimously

Article 21: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000.00 to repair and replace a section of the Town Hall roof.

Article 21 passed unanimously

Article 22: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$2,200.00 to install a gate to block entry to Ashley Reservoir by way of Washington Mountain Road.

Article 22 passed by majority hand note. 14 yeas, 11 nays

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$12,000.00 from Free Cash into the Stabilization Account.

Article 23 passed unanimously

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000.00 from Free Cash in order to reduce the Fiscal Year 2020 tax rate.

Article 24 passed unanimously

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to set the limit on the total amount that can be expended from each of the town's established revolving funds, in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E½, as follows:

- a. Electrical Inspector: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,500.00
- b. Gas & Plumbing Inspector: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- c. Fire Inspector: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- d. St. Andrew's Chapel Rentals and Maintenance: Expenditures not to exceed \$4,000.00
- e. Washington Town Park: Expenditures not to exceed \$6,000.00
- f. Washington Council on Aging Donations: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- g. Washington Historical Commission: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00

Article 25 passed unanimously

Article 26: To see if the Town will choose all other Town Officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot: 2 Field Drivers, 1 Pound Keeper, 2 Fence Viewers, 1 Surveyor of Lumber, 1 Measurer of Wood and Bark, 1 Sexton, and 1 Assistant Sexton. All nominations for the above mentioned officers to be made from the floor.

Article 26 amended as follows:

To see if the Town will choose all other Town Officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot: 2 Field Drivers, ~~1 Pound Keeper~~, 2 Fence Viewers, 1 Surveyor of Lumber, 1 Measurer of Wood and Bark, 1 Sexton, and 1 Assistant Sexton. All nominations for the above mentioned officers to be made from the floor.

Amendment to Article 26 passed unanimously

Elected from the floor by unanimous voice vote:

Field Drivers - Ed Neumeth and Dominic Sinopoli

Fence Viewers - Tricia Drugmand and Kermit Pruyne

Surveyor of Lumber - Sean Connors

Measurer of Wood and Bark - Sean Connors

Sexton - Dick Grillon

Assistant Sexton - Virginia Polizzi Vogel



Allison Mikaniewicz

Town Clerk

May 18, 2019

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unissued remainder of \$17,118.00 from a borrowing authorization, originally passed at the July 31, 2017, Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a 1-ton plow truck with dump bed and sander, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purpose for which it was originally approved.

Article 1 passed unanimously

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the encumbrance of a remaining sum of \$1,491.80 in the Stabilization Account, originally authorized at the July 31, 2017, Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a light-duty truck for general use by the Highway Department, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purpose for which it was originally approved.

Article 2 passed by 2/3 majority: 38 for, 0 against

Article 3: To see if the Town will appropriate \$75,000 from the Stabilization Fund as contingency for the remaining costs of installation and start-up of the Town's fiber-optic broadband network, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant, or take any other action relative thereto. If an additional state or federal broadband grant for this same project is awarded in the future, any such funding that becomes available will first be used to replenish the Stabilization Fund, to the extent permitted, up to the amount actually expended from this appropriation.

Article 3 passed by 2/3 majority: 36 for, 2 against



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
Washington, Massachusetts
September 23, 2019

A true copy attest

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS
DECEMBER 16, 2019**

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the encumbrance of a remaining sum of \$75,000.00 in the Stabilization Account, originally authorized at the September 23, 2019 Special Town Meeting to be used as contingency for the remaining costs of installation and start-up of the Town's fiber-optic broadband network, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 1 passed unanimously

Article 2: To see if the Town will appropriate \$6,775.00 from the Stabilization Fund to pay for the asbestos remediation of Woody's Roadhouse.

Article 2 passed by 2/3 majority; hand-counted vote

12 Yes

0 No



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
Washington, Massachusetts
January 13, 2020
True Copy Attest

RESULTS

TOWN OF WASHINGTON ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

AUDITOR (2 year unexpired term)

2	Edward Bond
1	Glenn Grogan
1	Allison Mikaniewicz
1	Michael Burke
1	Rose Borgnis
63	Blanks

FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 year term)

58	Kent Lew, Incumbent
2	Michael Burke
9	Blanks

FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 year term)

26	Debra Megas
4	Michael Burke
1	David Weissbrod
1	Richard Spencer
1	Sean Connors
36	Blanks

PLANNING BOARD (5 year term)

16	Craig Willis
2	Michael Case
2	Leslie Conklin-Lennon
1	Mathew Lawrence
1	Debra Megas
1	Steve Nelson
1	Edward Bond
45	Blanks

SELECTBOARD (3 year term)

45	Patricia Drugmand, Incumbent
6	Kent Lew
5	David Fish
1	Rose Borgnis
1	Craig Willis
1	Eyal Shapira
10	Blanks

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the Town of Washington 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 for costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Wahconah Regional High School located at 150 Old Windsor Road, in Dalton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

37	Yes
28	No
4	Blanks



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
May 19, 2019

ELECTION RESULTS

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

MARCH 3, 2020

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

	Democratic
0	Deval Patrick
3	Amy Klobuchar
33	Elizabeth Warren
0	Michael Bennet
14	Michael Bloomberg
0	Tulsi Gabbard
0	Cory Booker
0	Julian Castro
1	Tom Steyer
43	Bernie Sanders
70	Joseph Biden
0	John Delaney
0	Andrew Yang
0	Pete Buttigieg
0	Marianne Williamson
5	No Preference

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

	Republican
5	William Weld
1	Joe Walsh
31	Donald Trump
0	Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente
0	No Preference

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

	Libertarian
0	Arvin Vohra
0	Vermin Love Supreme
1	Jacob George Hornberger
0	Samuel Joseph Robb
1	Dan Taxation is Theft Behrman
0	Kimberly Margaret Ruff

0	Kenneth Reed Armstrong
0	Adam Kokesh
0	Jo Jorgensen
0	Max Abramson
0	No Preference

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

	Green Rainbow Party
0	Dario Hunter
0	Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry
0	Kent Mesplay
0	Howard Hawkins

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

	Democratic
136	Sherwood Guernsey, II
33	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

	Democratic
136	Marietta Rapetti Cawse
33	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

	Republican
24	Michael Case
11	Tyler James Hastings
2	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

	Republican
18	Robin Almgren
14	Christine Canning
5	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

	Libertarian
2	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

	Libertarian
2	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

	Green Rainbow Party
0	Blanks

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

	Green Rainbow Party
0	Blanks

PLEASE NOTE: The write-ins for Town Committee on the Democratic ballots are not included in these results as Washington does not have Town Committees

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 418
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST: 208
DEMOCRATIC BALLOTS CAST: 169
REPUBLICAN BALLOTS CAST: 37
LIBERTARIAN BALLOTS CAST: 2
GREEN RAINBOW BALLOTS CAST: 0
VOTER TURNOUT: 50%

Serve your Community

Town of Washington Committee Application

Name _____

Last

First

Middle

Address _____

Number/Street

P.O. Box

City

State

Zip

Telephone: *Home* _____ *Work* _____ *Work Hours* _____

Have you previously served on a Town Committee/Commission/Board? Yes No

If So, when? _____ Which One(s) _____

Work Experience: _____

What are your community interests? _____

Are you available on a year-round basis? Yes No

I would like to serve the Town of Washington and might be interested in serving on the following committees or commissions. If more than one, please indicate preference by 1,2,3, etc.

_____ Assessor _____ Board of Health _____ Conservation Commission

_____ Council on Aging _____ Cultural Council _____ Emergency Manager

_____ Emma C. Bailey Trust Fund Committee _____ Historical Commission

_____ Parks Commission _____ Saint Andrews Chapel Commission

_____ Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee _____ Zoning Board of Appeals

_____ Other: _____

Return to: Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01201

This application will be placed on file for reference when a vacancy occurs

If you wish to be reappointed to a position that you currently hold, please complete this section of the form.

Name _____ Term to be reappointed until _____

Position (s) currently held: _____