

Annual Town Report  
Blandford, Massachusetts  
2023-2024



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Accountant</b>	<b>9 - 24</b>
<b>Appointed Town Officials</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Assessors</b>	<b>26- 29</b>
<b>Building Commissioner/Inspector</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Cemetery Commissioners</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Council on aging</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Cultural Council</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Elected Town Officials</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Election Results 2024</b>	<b>ADDENDA</b>
<b>Federal Legislators</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Finance Committee</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Financial Reports</b>	<i>see accountant</i>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Government, State District</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Health, Board of</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Hilltown Community Ambulance</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Historical Commission</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Library Director</b>	<b>40 - 41</b>
<b>Library Trustees</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Municipal Light Plant Board</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Police Department</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Recreation Committee</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Town Clerk</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Town Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>ADDENDA</b>
<b>Treasurer/Collector</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Water Commissioners</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Zoning Board of appeals</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Addenda</b>	<b>51</b>

**Town Hall Telephone 413-848-4279**

## GLOSSARY

**APPROPRIATION:** An authorization granted by a Town Meeting to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount as to the time when it may be expended. Only a Town meeting or the School Committee can authorize money appropriated for one purpose to be used for another. Any amount which is appropriated may be encumbered (see definition).

**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** Free cash, reserves and unexpended balances available for appropriation.

**COLLECTOR:** Is responsible for the overall administration of local taxes. The Collector enforces the tax laws to insure a high level of voluntary payment and is responsible for properly maintaining tax records, accounting for taxes received, and paying over all receipts to the Treasurer.

**ENCUMBRANCES:** Obligations in the form of purchase orders, contracts or salary commitments which are chargeable to the appropriation and for which a part of the appropriation is reserved.

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS:** Estimate of money to be received by the Town from various sources, such as licenses, state reimbursements, etc. The estimate is deducted by the Assessors from the gross amount to be raised by taxes when the tax rate is set.

**EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY:** Also called the "surplus revenue" account, this is the amount by which cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves. It is akin to the "stockholders equity" account on a corporation balance sheet. It is not, however, available for appropriation in full because a portion of the assets listed as "accounts receivable" may be taxes receivable and uncollected. (See "Free Cash")

**FISCAL YEAR:** A twelve-month period commencing July 1 to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a Town determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

**FREE CASH:** Certified each July 1 by the Director of Accounts, this is the surplus revenue account (Also called "excess and deficiency") less any uncollected taxes of prior years. It is available for appropriation upon certification. By action of a Special Town Meeting after certification and before setting the tax rate, part or all of any unexpected "free cash" may be applied to reduce the tax rate of the current year. (See also "Excess and Deficiency"). "Free Cash" is also referred to as "Available Funds."

**OVERLAY:** Amount of money raised by Assessors for purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements and uncollectible taxes.

**RESERVE FUND:** Amount transferred from Overlay and/or appropriated for unforeseen or emergency purposes. Controlled by vote of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.

**ROAD MACHINERY FUND:** A fund which is the accumulated town charge for certain uses for town equipment and may be appropriated for maintenance and repair of that equipment.

**SURPLUS REVENUE:** The amount by which the cash, accounts receivable and other floating assets exceed the liabilities and reserves.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:** A meeting of the registered voters of a Town called by the Board of Selectmen at their discretion or by written request of 20% of all registered voters.

**TOWN MEETING WARRANT:** A written order calling the annual or special town meeting containing a list of the subjects to be acted upon. The Select Board shall insert in the warrant for the annual Town Meeting all subjects which are requested in writing by ten or more registered voters and in the warrant for a Special Town Meeting all subjects requested by 10% of all the Town's voters.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN UNITED STATES CONGRESS

U.S. Senators

**Ed Markey** 1550 Main Street, 4th Floor  
975 JFK Federal Building Springfield, MA 01103  
15 New Sudbury Street 413-785-4610  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-565-8519

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2742

**Elizabeth Warren** 1550 Main Street, Suite 406  
2400 JFK Federal Building, Springfield, MA 01103  
15 New Sudbury Street 413-788-2690  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-565-3170

311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4543

### U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal

Washington Office 300 State Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, MA 01105  
372 Cannon House Office Building Tel: 413-785-0325  
Washington, DC 20515 Fax: 413-747-0604  
Tel: 202-225-5601  
Fax: 202-225-8112

Pittsfield Office  
78 Center St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Tel: 413-442-0946 Fax: 413-443-2792

## HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**District Attorney Anthony Gulluni**  
Hampden County District Attorney  
Superior Court & District Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01102  
Superior Court Telephone: 413-747-1000  
Superior Court Fax: 413-781-4745  
District Court Telephone: 413-747-1001  
District Court Fax: 413-747-5628

## GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICTS - STATE

### **Governor's Office**

Maura Healey, Governor  
Kim Driscoll, Lt. Governor  
Boston Office  
Executive Office, Room 360  
State House  
Boston 02133  
Tel: 617-725-4000

Springfield Office  
436 Dwight Street, 3rd floor  
Springfield 01103  
Tel: 413-784-1200  
Fax: 413-784-1203

### **Secretary of the Commonwealth**

William Francis Galvin  
Boston Office  
State House, Room 337  
Boston, MA 02133  
Tel: (617) 727-7030  
Fax: 617-742-4528  
Toll free: 1-800-392-6090  
cathy.molta@sec.state.ma.us  
Email: cis@sec.state.ma.us

Springfield Office  
436 Dwight Street, Room 102  
Springfield 01103  
Tel: 413-784-1376  
Fax: 413-784-1379

### **Representatives in Massachusetts General Court**

Representative Nicholas Boldyga (R) 3<sup>rd</sup> Hampden District  
State House Address                      District Office (preferred mailing address)  
Room 167                                      P.O. Box 1495  
State House                                  Southwick, MA 01077  
Boston, MA 02133                          Tel: 413-274-8084  
Tel: 413-274-8084  
Fax: 617-722-2238  
Email: Nicholas.Boldyga@mahouse.gov

Senator: Paul Mark (D) Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden  
State House                                  773 Tyler Street  
Room 504                                      Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Boston, MA 02133                          Tel: 413-464-5635  
Tel: 617-722-1625

Please see the state's website for more information: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Title, Term Expires  
**Assessor** (3 years)  
David Hopson 2025  
Paul Martin 2027  
Steve Jemiolo 2026

**Cemetery Commission** (3 years)  
TJ Cousineau 2025  
Stephen Jemiolo 2027  
Peter Sparks 2026

**Fence Viewer** (3 years)  
VACANT

**Fence Viewer** (2 years)  
VACANT

**Field Driver** (3 years)  
VACANT

**Health, Board of** (3 years)  
Jennifer Girard 2025  
Brett Hartley 2027  
Pat Lombardo 2026

**Library Trustee** (3 years)  
Charles Benson 2025  
Byam Stevens 2026  
Mary Kronholm 2027

**Moderator** (3 years)  
David Hopson 2027

**Municipal Light Plant Board** (3 years)  
Kim Bergland 2027  
Peter Langmore 2026  
June Masse 2025

Title, Term Expires  
**Planning Board** (5 years)  
Edna Wilander 2029  
Sarah Simpson 2028  
Paul Martin 2029  
Greg Garfield 2028  
Bob Twyman, Associate Member 2028

**School Committee** (3 years)  
Keri Morawiec 2027  
Nicole Daviau 2026

**Select Board** (3 years)  
Jeff Allen 2025  
Cara Letendre 2026  
Theodore Cousineau 2027

**Town Clerk** (3 years)  
Doris Jemiolo 2026

**Tree Warden** (3 years)  
Mark Boomsma 2027

**Water Commissioner** (3 years)  
Michael Keier 2026  
Brad Curry 2027  
Peter Thayer 2025

If you have any interest in being appointed to fill one of the vacancies on any of the boards, you are encouraged to attend their meeting(s), speak with their board members, and submit a letter of interest to both the board of your interest and the Board of Selectmen.

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

**Animal Control Officer** (1 year)  
Jen Dubiel

**Agricultural Commission** (3 years)  
Eileen Gates 2025  
Dick Gates 2025  
David Hopson 2025  
Leon Ripley 2025  
Vacant

**Arts Council** (3 years)  
Mary Kronholm 2026  
Sue Racine 2026  
Janet Strausberg 2026  
Lisa Bruno 2027  
Cindy Carr 2027

**Building Inspector**  
Jason Forgeue 2025

**Burial Agent** (by BoH)  
TJ Cousineau 2025

**Chief procurement Officer** (1 year)  
Vacant

**Conservation Commission** (3 years)  
Dick Gates Chair 2027  
Nathan Maynard 2026  
Colleen Doyle 2025  
John Piper 2027

**Constables**  
Vacant 4 positions

**Council on Aging** (3 years)  
Margit Mikuski, Director  
Barbara Langmore 2025  
Pat Lombardo 2025  
Heidi Taberman 2025  
Bob Twyman 2025  
Joann Martin 2027

**Election Warden** (1 year)  
Jennifer Girard 2025

**Electrical Wiring Inspector** (1 year)  
Nathan Kowalczyk 2025

**Emergency Management**  
Cristina Ferrera 2025  
Jennifer Dubiel 2025  
Jennifer Girard 2025  
David Waldron 2025  
Gordon Avery (2025)  
Adam Dolby 2025

**Finance Committee** (3 yrs)  
Deb Brodie 2027  
Jackie Coury 2026  
Kevin Green 2025  
Janet Lombardo, 2027  
Vacant 1 position

**Hazardous Waste**  
Adam Dolby, 2025

**Historical Commission**  
Jo-Anne Auclair 2026  
Don Carpenter 2026  
Katy Milford 2025  
Linda Barnard 2025  
Ryan Stafford 2025

**Information Technology**  
Novus

**Inspector of Animals and Slaughter** (1 year)  
Jessica Carrington 2025

**Inspector of Veteran's Graves**  
Douglas Emo 2026

**Measurer of Bark and Wood** (1 year)  
Mark Boomsma 2025

**Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.** (1 year)  
TJ Cousineau

**Plumbing and Gas Inspector** (1 year)  
Aaron Poteat 2025  
Asst. (1 year) Vacant

**Police Chief** (3 years)  
Jen Dubiel

**Records Access Officer**  
Doris Jemiolo

**Recreation Committee** (3 years)  
Chuck Benson 2022  
Joann Martin 2021  
Maggi Zajko 2021  
Justin LaFrance 2027

**Registrars of Voters** (3 yrs)  
Co Cousineau 2026  
Robert Twyman 2025  
Margit Mikuski 2027

**Tax Collector /Treasurer**  
Sara Hunter

**Town Accountant**  
Kelli Pontbriand 2026

**Town Administrator**  
Cristina Ferrera 202

**Town Counsel**  
KP Law P.C.

**Veterans' Agent** (1 year)  
Joseph Henning 2025

**Watson Park Superintendent** (1 year)  
Douglas Emo

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Kim Bergland 2027  
Asa Kerr 2028

## SELECT BOARD

The year of 2023-2024 has been one of change, regrouping and forward progress. We began the year with Christopher Dunne continuing his position as Town Administrator. In November he offered his resignation in pursuit of a Town Planning position elsewhere.

The selectboard appointed Ira Brezinsky from PVPC to step in as an Interim TA. With Ira's help we created a search committee and began the process of searching for a long-term candidate to fill the position. In January the board appointed Mike Szlosek to the position. He resigned in April and the search committee was reconvened. In June, the selectboard Appointed Cristina Ferrara to the position. She comes to us with years of experience working for various branches of municipalities, an extensive history of writing and acquiring grants and the ability to organize and manage a town budget.

Despite this turnover in the TA office, we were able to accomplish many of our goals this fiscal year. In August we filled the newly created position of Conservation Agent to ease some of the burden from our volunteer Conservation Board. We were able to begin work on a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and an Asset Management Plan via a grant through Community Compact Best Practices.

In September we received a grant to fund the update of town building towards reaching ADA compliance. We created a Commission on Disability and adopted ADA procedures. We received a Community Compact IT grant to fund updating our financial software from Softright to Vadar.

In October we hired an OPM, City Point Partners, for building services through schematic design phase for the Fire/Highway building.

In December we approved InterGovernmental Agreements with the Springfield Water and Sewage Treatment Commission, agreeing to terms for them to complete work on South Street as well as accepting funds for Fire Department backpack sprayers.

The selectboard met with our Electrical Inspector to review a plan for electrical modifications and renovations to the standby generator at town hall. With aid form DLTA, we completed a permitting guide project.

In February we held a town hall meeting with Senator Mark and Representative Boldyga. We met with the Chester Select Board and TA in our annual review of the Blandford Chester Police Department. We held several meetings to discuss the possibility of shared services with the Chester Fire Department. This project is currently on hold.

In May, while in between TA's we hired Christopher Dunne as a consultant to help us with our budget process and ensure that we were ready to begin the next fiscal year in a fiscally responsible manner.

Cara Letendre, Chairman



## **Town Accountant 2024 Annual Report**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and citizens of Blandford, I submit to you the following Annual Financial Report.

Our mission is to ensure that the appropriate financial and auditing controls within the Town are maintained in an efficient, cost-effective and responsive manner. We oversee all departmental appropriations assuring that departments operate within their annual budget. In addition, we are responsible for maintaining all financial records and that they are in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric A. Kinsherf". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA

[www.erickinsherfcpa.com](http://www.erickinsherfcpa.com)

Town Accountant

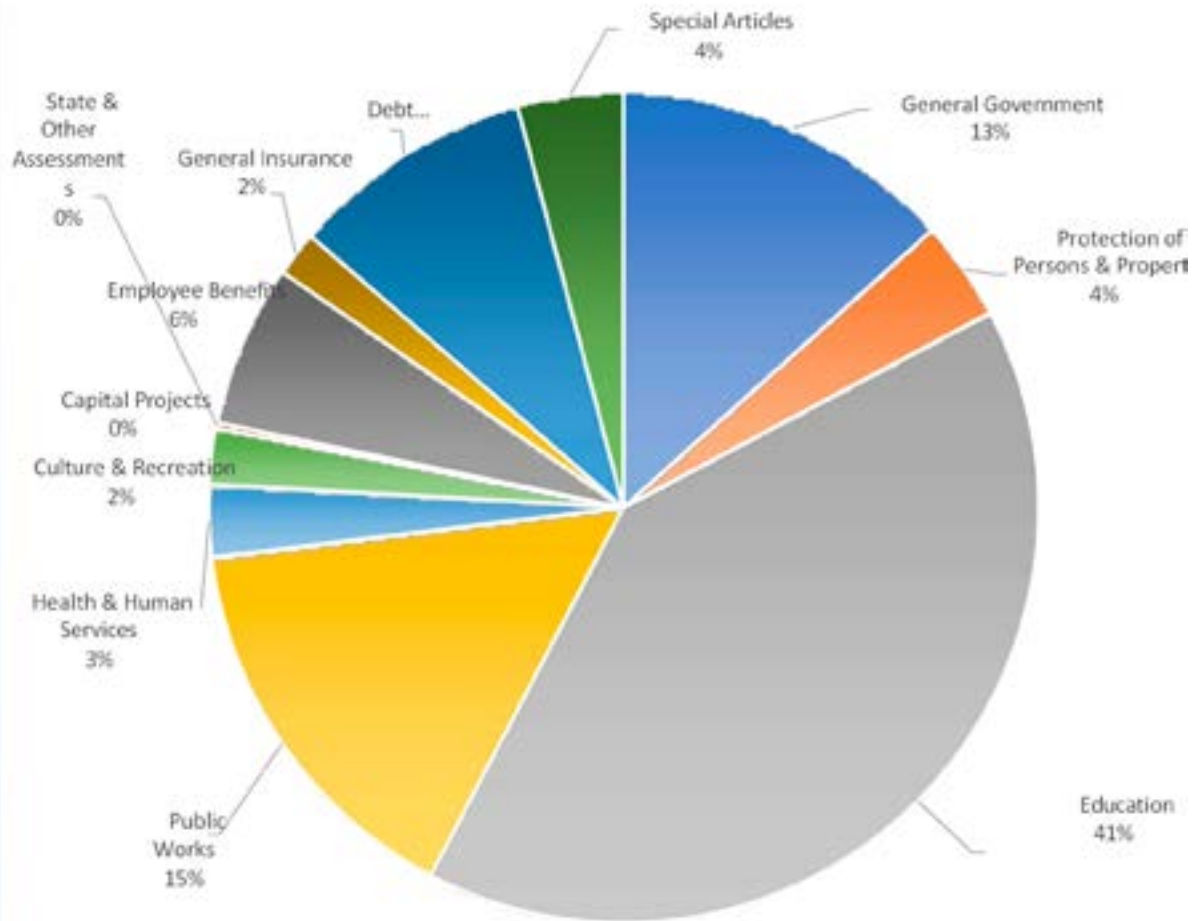
**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups**  
**as of June 30, 2024**  
**(Unaudited)**

	Governmental Fund Types					Fiduciary	Account	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Proprietary Funds Enterprise	Fund Types Trust and Agency	Groups Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)	
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	1,406,269.80	588,561.15	245,123.99	826,292.14	2,768,830.85	2,955,916.25	5,835,077.93	
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	22,100.43						22,100.43	
Real estate taxes	156,047.90						156,047.90	
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(44,713.52)						(44,713.52)	
Rollback Taxes	0.00						0.00	
Tax liens	512,950.43						512,950.43	
Tax Foreclosures	70,789.69						70,789.69	
Motor vehicle excise	24,871.49						24,871.49	
User fees				135,282.78			135,282.78	
Utility liens added to taxes				60,881.52			60,881.52	
Departmental							0.00	
Other Receivables							0.00	
Due from other governments	225,241.86						225,241.86	
Working deposit							0.00	
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							0.00	
Total Assets	2,373,558.08	588,561.15	245,123.99	1,022,456.44	2,768,830.85	2,955,916.25	2,955,916.25	
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>								
Liabilities:								
Accrued Payroll	6,250.00						6,250.00	
Other Liabilities							0.00	
Agency Funds					15,051.34		15,051.34	
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	133,434.81						133,434.81	
Tax liens	512,950.43						512,950.43	
Tax Foreclosures	70,789.69						70,789.69	
Motor vehicle excise	24,871.49						24,871.49	
User fees				135,282.78			135,282.78	
Utility liens added to taxes				60,881.52			60,881.52	
Departmental							0.00	
Other Receivables							0.00	
Due from other governments	225,241.86						225,241.86	
Due to other governments							0.00	
Tailings	5,243.37						5,243.37	
Bonds payable			2,025,000.00				2,025,000.00	
Notes payable							0.00	
Total Liabilities	978,781.65	0.00	2,025,000.00	196,164.30	15,051.34	2,955,916.25	6,170,913.54	
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	136,864.79						286,800.49	
Reserved for expenditures	150,000.00			149,935.70			408,805.12	
Reserved for continuing appropriations	347,539.39			258,805.12			347,539.39	
Reserved for appropriation deficit	(33,790.65)						(33,790.65)	
Reserved for debt services	0.00						0.00	
Undesignated fund balance	794,162.90	588,561.15	(1,779,876.01)	417,551.32	2,753,779.51		2,356,627.55	
Unreserved Retained Earnings							417,551.32	
Total Fund Equity	1,394,776.43	588,561.15	(1,779,876.01)	826,292.14	2,753,779.51	0.00	3,783,533.22	
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	2,373,558.08	588,561.15	245,123.99	1,022,456.44	2,768,830.85	2,955,916.25	9,954,446.76	

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual	Amounts Carried	Variance with Final Budget
	Carry Forward	Original Budget	Final Budget	Budgetary Basis	Forward to Next Year	Positive (Negative)
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 3,419,654.19	\$ 3,423,878.19	\$ 3,454,713.79	\$ -	\$ 30,835.60
Sale of Tax Foreclosure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Excise & Other Taxes	\$ -	\$ 202,150.00	\$ 202,150.00	\$ 268,902.32	\$ -	\$ 66,752.32
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 18,869.52	\$ -	\$ (16,130.48)
Charges for Services - Trash Disposal	\$ -	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 27,990.00	\$ -	\$ 3,990.00
Licenses, Permits & Fees	\$ -	\$ 31,788.00	\$ 31,788.00	\$ 38,508.94	\$ -	\$ 6,720.94
Other	\$ -	\$ 238,702.00	\$ 238,702.00	\$ 293,343.10	\$ -	\$ 54,641.10
Fines & Forfeits	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,157.06	\$ -	\$ (842.94)
Interest from Investments	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 54,242.04	\$ -	\$ 52,342.04
Intergovernmental-Comm. of Mass.	\$ -	\$ 251,896.00	\$ 251,896.00	\$ 250,522.00	\$ -	\$ (1,374.00)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,215,090.19	\$ 4,219,314.19	\$ 4,416,248.77	\$ -	\$ 196,934.58
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current Fiscal Year:						
General Government	\$ -	\$ 721,570.07	\$ 712,670.07	\$ 569,707.81	\$ 24,757.00	\$ 118,205.26
Protection of Persons & Property	\$ -	\$ 281,386.00	\$ 288,485.67	\$ 165,899.84	\$ 106,923.00	\$ 15,662.83
Education	\$ -	\$ 1,786,208.00	\$ 1,772,023.54	\$ 1,726,314.78	\$ -	\$ 45,708.76
Public Works	\$ -	\$ 685,501.50	\$ 687,401.50	\$ 656,149.20	\$ -	\$ 31,252.30
Health & Human Services	\$ -	\$ 136,990.31	\$ 135,575.10	\$ 119,526.11	\$ 5,184.79	\$ 10,864.20
Culture & Recreation	\$ -	\$ 99,014.72	\$ 99,514.72	\$ 93,282.04	\$ -	\$ 6,232.68
State & Other Assessments	\$ -	\$ 14,183.00	\$ 14,183.00	\$ 9,183.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Employee Benefits	\$ -	\$ 312,989.59	\$ 317,213.59	\$ 269,540.82	\$ -	\$ 47,672.77
Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Insurance	\$ -	\$ 75,000.01	\$ 75,000.01	\$ 75,076.90	\$ -	\$ (76.89)
Debt Service:						
Principal	\$ -	\$ 313,400.00	\$ 313,400.00	\$ 310,399.00	\$ -	\$ 3,001.00
Interest and Fiscal Charges	\$ -	\$ 26,211.80	\$ 80,016.92	\$ 80,511.22	\$ -	\$ (494.30)
Highway Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Special Articles	\$ -	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 509,618.84	\$ 176,126.72	\$ 333,492.12	\$ -
<b>Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,732,455.00	\$ 5,020,102.96	\$ 4,266,717.44	\$ 470,356.91	\$ 283,028.61
<b>Other Expenditures:</b>						
Prior Year Articles	\$ 69,668.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,621.47	\$ 14,047.27	\$ -
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$ 20,716.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,716.80	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	\$ 90,385.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,338.27	\$ 14,047.27	\$ -
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ 90,385.54	\$ 4,732,455.00	\$ 5,020,102.96	\$ 4,343,055.71	\$ 484,404.18	\$ 283,028.61
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	\$ (90,385.54)	\$ (517,364.81)	\$ (800,788.77)	\$ 73,193.06	\$ (484,404.18)	\$ 479,963.19
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 65,974.00	\$ 185,974.00	\$ 185,974.00	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	\$ -	\$ (9,026.00)	\$ 110,974.00	\$ 110,974.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	\$ (90,385.54)	\$ (526,390.81)	\$ (689,814.77)	\$ 184,167.06	\$ (484,404.18)	\$ 479,963.19
<b>Audit Adjustments</b>				\$ (978.27)		
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>		\$ 1,211,587.64	\$ 1,211,587.64	\$ 1,211,587.64	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	\$ (90,385.54)	\$ 685,196.83	\$ 521,772.87	\$ 1,394,776.43	\$ (484,404.18)	\$ 479,963.19

# BUDGET FY2024 EXPENDITURES



- General Government
- Education
- Health & Human Services
- Capital Projects
- Employee Benefits
- Debt
- Protection of Persons & Property
- Public Works
- Culture & Recreation
- State & Other Assessments
- General Insurance
- Special Articles

GENERAL GOVERNMENT		Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Closed	Carry Forward
Account Number	Description								
015114.000	Moderator's Salary	\$	500.00		\$	500.00	\$	\$	-
015122.000	Selectmen's Salaries	\$	8,000.00		\$	8,000.00	\$	\$	-
015122.001	Selectmen's Sec Salary	\$	21,736.00		\$	21,736.00	\$	(1,470.00)	(1,470.00)
015122.002	Selectmen's Expense	\$	4,500.00		\$	4,500.00	\$	3,031.53	1,468.47
015196.000	Town Administrator/Secretary Salary	\$	87,500.00	(1,332.96)	\$	86,167.04	\$	4,137.97	4,137.97
015131.000	Finance Committee	\$	200.00		\$	200.00	\$	58.00	58.00
015132.000	Reserve Account	\$	45,000.00	(44,017.22)	\$	982.78	\$	982.78	982.78
015137.000	Accounting Consultant	\$	33,000.00		\$	33,000.00	\$	2,750.00	2,750.00
015199.000	Audit Services - Town Records	\$	21,000.00		\$	21,000.00	\$	21,000.00	21,000.00
015141.000	Assessor's Salary	\$	5,000.00		\$	5,000.00	\$	(57.69)	(57.69)
015141.001	Assessor's Expense	\$	1,000.00		\$	1,000.00	\$	(796.63)	(796.63)
015141.002	Assessor's Clerk Salary	\$	9,424.00		\$	9,424.00	\$	2,593.00	2,593.00
015141.003	Assessor's Dues, Membership Fees	\$	250.00		\$	250.00	\$	175.00	175.00
015141.004	Assessor's Education & Training	\$	800.00		\$	800.00	\$	800.00	800.00
015141.006	Assessor's Registry of Deeds	\$	100.00		\$	100.00	\$	100.00	100.00
015141.007	Assessor's Legal Notices	\$	150.00		\$	150.00	\$	150.00	150.00
015141.009	Assessor's Misc Expenses	\$	600.00		\$	600.00	\$	600.00	600.00
015142.000	Assessor's Contract Service	\$	67,000.00		\$	67,000.00	\$	18,660.00	18,660.00
015145.000	Treasurer Salary	\$	38,064.00	(26,637.60)	\$	11,426.40	\$	-	-
015145.001	Treasurer's Clerk	\$	15,000.00		\$	15,000.00	\$	2,562.00	2,562.00
015145.002	Treasurer's Expense	\$	10,000.00		\$	10,000.00	\$	986.25	986.25
015145.003	Assistant Treasurer & Tax Collector	\$	24,700.00	(19,000.00)	\$	5,700.00	\$	6,171.00	6,171.00
015145.004	Treasurer's Clerk (2)	\$	20,000.00		\$	20,000.00	\$	12,511.50	12,511.50
015145.005	Tax Title Legal Fees	\$	25,000.00		\$	25,000.00	\$	14,731.00	13,724.00
015145.008	Treasurer/Coil Prof Services	\$	30,000.00	45,637.60	\$	75,637.60	\$	8,506.85	8,506.85
015151.000	Town Counsel	\$	30,000.00	(4,000.00)	\$	26,000.00	\$	15,945.45	15,945.45
015161.000	Town Clerk Stipend	\$	24,470.07		\$	24,470.07	\$	0.17	0.17
015161.001	Town Clerk's Expense	\$	3,121.00		\$	3,121.00	\$	1,470.27	1,470.27
015161.002	Street & Dog List Salary	\$	791.00		\$	791.00	\$	0.14	0.14
015161.003	Street & Dog List Expense	\$	700.00		\$	700.00	\$	699.86	699.86
015161.004	Vital Statistics Salary	\$	51.00		\$	51.00	\$	-	-
015161.009	Town Clerk Assistant	\$	3,420.00		\$	3,420.04	\$	(0.04)	(0.04)
015162.000	Election & Registrars	\$	4,500.00	6,700.00	\$	11,200.00	\$	1,681.19	1,681.19
015163.000	Board of Registrars Salary	\$	60.00		\$	60.00	\$	-	-
015171.000	Conservation Commission	\$	1,000.00		\$	1,000.00	\$	482.05	482.05
015171.001	Conservation Commission Stipends	\$	8,000.00		\$	8,000.00	\$	2,000.00	2,000.00
015171.002	Conservation Agent	\$	10,400.00		\$	10,400.00	\$	5,282.50	5,282.50
015175.000	Planning Board	\$	5,000.00		\$	5,000.00	\$	2,968.22	2,968.22
015175.001	Planning Board Stipends	\$	8,000.00		\$	8,000.00	\$	-	-
015176.000	Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses	\$	500.00		\$	500.00	\$	500.00	500.00
015176.002	Zoning Board of Appeals Stipends	\$	5,000.00		\$	5,000.00	\$	3,500.00	3,500.00
015177.000	Zoning Secretary	\$	500.00		\$	500.00	\$	500.00	500.00
015191.000	Town Office Supplies (all)	\$	4,000.00		\$	4,000.00	\$	98.73	98.73
015192.004	External IT Support / Computer Soft	\$	62,114.00	7,700.00	\$	69,814.00	\$	2,882.73	2,882.73
015192.000	New Town Hall Maint & Repairs	\$	7,000.00	15,217.22	\$	22,217.22	\$	3,833.62	3,833.62
015192.001	Town Hall Utilities	\$	25,000.00	4,100.00	\$	29,100.00	\$	980.32	980.32
015192.002	Town Hall Misc. Exp (incl mowing)	\$	10,000.00	5,332.96	\$	15,332.96	\$	(0.02)	(0.02)
015192.003	Town Hall - Fuel	\$	25,000.00		\$	25,000.00	\$	3,312.43	3,312.43
015192.005	Town Hall - Labor	\$	16,000.00		\$	16,000.00	\$	72.98	72.98

015193.000	Old Town Hall Expenses	\$	6,950.00	\$	1,400.00	\$	8,350.00	\$	8,227.98	\$	122.02	\$	122.02
015195.000	Town Reports Salary	\$	759.00	\$		\$	759.00	\$	759.00	\$	-	\$	-
015195.001	Town Report Expenses	\$	710.00	\$		\$	710.00	\$	-	\$	710.00	\$	710.00
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	\$	<b>721,570.07</b>	\$	<b>(8,900.00)</b>	\$	<b>712,670.07</b>	\$	<b>569,707.81</b>	\$	<b>142,962.26</b>	\$	<b>118,205.26</b>
		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	<b>24,757.00</b>

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

015210.000	Police Salaries	\$	-	\$		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
015210.001	Police Expense	\$	106,923.00	\$		\$	106,923.00	\$	-	\$	106,923.00	\$	
015220.000	Fire Dept Salary - Chief	\$	25,688.00	\$		\$	25,688.00	\$	25,485.40	\$	202.60	\$	202.60
015220.001	Fire Dept. Exp.	\$	56,865.00	\$		\$	56,865.00	\$	54,897.74	\$	1,967.26	\$	1,967.26
015231.000	Hilkhorn Comm. Ambulance	\$	50,000.00	\$	7,099.67	\$	57,099.67	\$	45,369.63	\$	11,730.04	\$	11,730.04
015232.000	Building Inspector Salary	\$	11,810.00	\$		\$	11,810.00	\$	11,764.55	\$	45.45	\$	45.45
015232.001	Building Inspector Expenses	\$	500.00	\$		\$	500.00	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
015249.010	Inspector of Animals	\$	1,500.00	\$		\$	1,500.00	\$	1,125.00	\$	375.00	\$	375.00
015291.000	Emergency/Management	\$	100.00	\$		\$	100.00	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
015292.000	Animal Control Salary	\$	4,000.00	\$		\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00	\$	-	\$	-
015292.003	Animal Control Expense	\$	2,000.00	\$		\$	2,000.00	\$	1,408.02	\$	591.98	\$	591.98
015294.000	Tree Warden Salary	\$	1,250.00	\$		\$	1,250.00	\$	1,250.00	\$	-	\$	-
015294.001	Tree Warden Expense	\$	750.00	\$		\$	750.00	\$	619.25	\$	130.75	\$	130.75
015294.002	Tree Warden Outside Service	\$	20,000.00	\$		\$	20,000.00	\$	19,980.25	\$	19.75	\$	19.75
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	\$	<b>287,386.00</b>	\$	<b>7,099.67</b>	\$	<b>288,485.67</b>	\$	<b>165,899.84</b>	\$	<b>122,585.83</b>	\$	<b>75,662.83</b>
		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	<b>106,923.00</b>

**EDUCATION**

015300.000	Gateway Reg. School Dist.	\$	1,480,258.00	\$	(14,184.46)	\$	1,480,258.00	\$	1,480,258.00	\$	-	\$	-
015301.000	Vocational Education	\$	275,000.00	\$		\$	260,815.54	\$	215,106.78	\$	45,708.76	\$	45,708.76
015302.000	Vocational Transportation	\$	30,950.00	\$		\$	30,950.00	\$	30,950.00	\$	-	\$	-
	<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	\$	<b>1,786,208.00</b>	\$	<b>(14,184.46)</b>	\$	<b>1,772,023.54</b>	\$	<b>1,726,314.78</b>	\$	<b>45,708.76</b>	\$	<b>45,708.76</b>

**PUBLIC WORKS**

015422.000	Highway Salaries	\$	270,000.00	\$		\$	270,000.00	\$	213,424.05	\$	56,575.95	\$	56,575.95
015422.001	Highway Overtime Salary	\$	4,000.00	\$		\$	4,000.00	\$	3,429.24	\$	570.76	\$	570.76
015422.002	Highway Expenses	\$	32,340.00	\$		\$	32,340.00	\$	33,164.59	\$	(824.59)	\$	(824.59)
015422.003	Highway Expense - Clothing Allowance	\$	4,000.00	\$		\$	4,000.00	\$	3,605.80	\$	394.20	\$	394.20
015422.004	Hwy/ Equipment Repairs - Outside Svc	\$	45,000.00	\$		\$	45,000.00	\$	44,341.50	\$	658.50	\$	658.50
015422.006	Highway Vehicle Maintenance	\$	10,000.00	\$		\$	10,000.00	\$	10,028.87	\$	(28.87)	\$	(28.87)
015422.012	Highway Equip Rental	\$	18,000.00	\$		\$	18,000.00	\$	17,873.38	\$	126.62	\$	126.62
015422.014	Highway - Vehicle Fuel	\$	28,661.50	\$	5,600.00	\$	34,261.50	\$	33,122.13	\$	1,139.37	\$	1,139.37
015422.015	Highway Garage - Maint & Repairs	\$	5,000.00	\$		\$	5,000.00	\$	4,928.45	\$	71.55	\$	71.55
015422.016	Highway Garages - Utilities	\$	7,000.00	\$		\$	7,000.00	\$	5,033.98	\$	1,966.02	\$	1,966.02
015422.018	Highway Repair New Roads	\$	115,000.00	\$	(5,600.00)	\$	109,400.00	\$	106,025.81	\$	3,374.19	\$	3,374.19
015422.019	Highway Tree Canopy Work	\$	20,000.00	\$		\$	20,000.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	-	\$	-
015422.005	Salt & Sand	\$	60,000.00	\$		\$	60,000.00	\$	101,022.37	\$	(41,022.37)	\$	(41,022.37)
015422.009	Highway Plow Blades/Nuts/Bolts W/Int	\$	15,000.00	\$		\$	15,000.00	\$	14,887.47	\$	112.53	\$	112.53
015422.010	Highway - Fuel/Oil Winter Exp.	\$	10,000.00	\$		\$	10,000.00	\$	6,069.46	\$	3,930.54	\$	3,930.54
015422.011	Snow & Ice Labor	\$	22,000.00	\$		\$	22,000.00	\$	18,615.80	\$	3,384.20	\$	3,384.20
015491.000	Cemetery Commission Expenses	\$	18,500.00	\$	1,900.00	\$	20,400.00	\$	20,370.30	\$	29.70	\$	29.70
015491.001	Cemetery Salary	\$	1,000.00	\$		\$	1,000.00	\$	206.00	\$	794.00	\$	794.00
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	\$	<b>685,507.50</b>	\$	<b>1,900.00</b>	\$	<b>687,407.50</b>	\$	<b>656,149.20</b>	\$	<b>31,252.30</b>	\$	<b>31,252.30</b>

**HUMAN SERVICES**

015510.000	Board of Health Salaries	\$	5,000.00	\$		\$	5,000.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	3,500.00	\$	3,500.00
015510.001	BOH Secretary Salary	\$	12,690.31	\$		\$	12,690.31	\$	12,690.31	\$	-	\$	-
015510.003	BOH & Transfer Station Expenses	\$	20,500.00	\$		\$	20,500.00	\$	20,463.12	\$	36.88	\$	36.88
015510.010	Transfer Station Salaries	\$	20,000.00	\$		\$	20,000.00	\$	19,558.14	\$	441.86	\$	441.86
015510.011	Cartage/Tipping	\$	45,000.00	\$	5,184.79	\$	50,184.79	\$	44,920.78	\$	5,264.01	\$	79.22
015510.012	Building & Maintenance	\$	15,000.00	\$		\$	15,000.00	\$	14,957.62	\$	42.38	\$	42.38
015522.000	Lee Visiting Nurses	\$	1,500.00	\$		\$	1,500.00	\$	320.00	\$	1,180.00	\$	1,180.00
015541.001	Council On Aging Expenses	\$	2,750.00	\$		\$	2,750.00	\$	640.19	\$	2,109.81	\$	2,109.81

015541.002	Council on Aging - Admin. Support	\$ 2,550.00	\$ -	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 2,480.92	\$ 69.08	\$ 69.08
015543.000	Veterans Administration	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,995.03	\$ 4.97	\$ 4.97
015543.001	Veteran's Benefits	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (6,600.00)	\$ 3,400.00	\$ -	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00
<b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>		\$ 136,990.31	\$ (1,415.21)	\$ 135,575.10	\$ 119,526.11	\$ 16,048.99	\$ 10,864.20
							\$ 5,184.79

**CULTURE & RECREATION**

015610.000	Library Salaries	\$ 57,520.32	\$ -	\$ 57,520.32	\$ 57,643.94	\$ (123.62)	\$ (123.62)
015610.001	Library Expenses	\$ 9,726.87	\$ 400.00	\$ 10,126.87	\$ 10,120.44	\$ 6.43	\$ 6.43
015610.002	Library Materials	\$ 16,867.53	\$ 100.00	\$ 16,967.53	\$ 16,967.47	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.06
015630.000	Recreation Committee	\$ 8,700.00	\$ -	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 5,243.17	\$ 3,456.83	\$ 3,456.83
015543.004	Memorial Day	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 821.32	\$ 178.68	\$ 178.68
015651.000	Historical Commission Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (21.56)	\$ 221.56	\$ 221.56
015651.002	Historical Consultant	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,507.26	\$ 2,492.74	\$ 2,492.74
<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>		\$ 99,014.72	\$ 500.00	\$ 99,514.72	\$ 93,282.04	\$ 6,232.68	\$ 6,232.68

**DEBT**

015751.003	Excluded-Landfill Principa-Long Term	\$ 10,400.00	\$ -	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 10,400.00	\$ -	\$ -
015751.102	Other Short Term BAN Pin Paydown	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Article 16</b>							
015751.102	Pay off Road Bond Debt	\$ 203,000.00	\$ -	\$ 203,000.00	\$ 199,999.00	\$ 3,001.00	\$ 3,001.00
	Total Principal	\$ 313,400.00	\$ -	\$ 313,400.00	\$ 310,399.00	\$ 3,001.00	\$ 3,001.00
015752.003	Excluded-Landfill Interest-Long Term	\$ 1,237.60	\$ -	\$ 1,237.60	\$ 618.80	\$ 618.80	\$ 618.80
015752.005	Broadband Interest	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 53,805.12	\$ 71,305.12	\$ 70,109.70	\$ 1,195.42	\$ 1,195.42
015752.102	Road Repair Interest	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 9,782.72	\$ (4,783.72)	\$ (4,783.72)
015752.999	Other Interest	\$ 2,475.20	\$ -	\$ 2,475.20	\$ -	\$ 2,475.20	\$ 2,475.20
	Total Interest	\$ 26,211.80	\$ 53,805.12	\$ 80,016.92	\$ 80,511.22	\$ (494.30)	\$ (494.30)
	Highway Expenditure	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL DEBT</b>		\$ 339,611.80	\$ 68,805.12	\$ 408,416.92	\$ 405,910.22	\$ 2,506.70	\$ 2,506.70

**ASSESSMENTS**

015821.000	RMV Assessment	\$ 1,940.00	\$ -	\$ 1,940.00	\$ 1,940.00	\$ -	\$ -
015822.000	Air Pollution Assessment	\$ 423.00	\$ -	\$ 423.00	\$ 423.00	\$ -	\$ -
015835.000	Regional Transit Charge	\$ 1,820.00	\$ -	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 1,820.00	\$ -	\$ -
	School Choice Sending Tuition	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
		\$ 14,183.00	\$ -	\$ 14,183.00	\$ 9,183.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

015911.000	Hampden County Retirement	\$ 135,191.00	\$ 4,224.00	\$ 139,415.00	\$ 139,415.00	\$ -	\$ -
015912.000	Workers Compensation	\$ 11,380.01	\$ -	\$ 11,380.01	\$ 10,292.10	\$ 1,087.91	\$ 1,087.91
015913.000	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 734.30	\$ 2,265.70	\$ 2,265.70
015914.000	Group Insurance (Health)	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 104,254.65	\$ 45,745.35	\$ 45,745.35
015192.011	Town Fire & Police Disability Insur	\$ 4,334.00	\$ -	\$ 4,334.00	\$ 4,334.00	\$ -	\$ -
015919.000	Medicare - Town Share	\$ 9,084.58	\$ -	\$ 9,084.58	\$ 10,510.77	\$ (1,426.19)	\$ (1,426.19)

**TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

\$ -	\$ 312,989.59	\$ 4,224.00	\$ 317,213.59	\$ 289,540.82	\$ 47,672.77	\$ 47,672.77	\$ -
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**OTHER INSURANCE**

015192.009	Town Insurance (includes round off .01)	\$ 75,000.01	\$ -	\$ 75,000.01	\$ 75,076.90	\$ (76.89)	\$ (76.89)
<b>TOTAL OTHER INSURANCE</b>		\$ 75,000.01	\$ -	\$ 75,000.01	\$ 75,076.90	\$ (76.89)	\$ (76.89)

**TOTAL FY2024 BUDGET**

\$ -	\$ 4,452,455.00	\$ 58,029.12	\$ 4,510,484.12	\$ 4,090,990.72	\$ 419,893.40	\$ 283,028.61	\$ 136,864.79
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**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL REVENUE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Fund Balances		Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
	June 30, 2024	Opening Balance			
<b>Special Revenue:</b>					
<b>Federal Grants:</b>					
Fire EMPG Grant	\$ (761.97)	\$ (761.97)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (761.97)
PVPC Federal Grant	\$ (39,142.36)	\$ -	\$ 107,042.82	\$ 146,185.18	\$ (39,142.36)
Cares	\$ -	\$ (218.71)	\$ -	\$ (218.71)	\$ -
ARPA	\$ 47,729.83	\$ 50,211.17	\$ -	\$ 2,481.34	\$ 47,729.83
ARPA Storm Relief	\$ 10,059.00	\$ 10,059.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,059.00
COA-HVES	\$ 1,418.66	\$ 1,418.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,418.66
<b>State Grants:</b>					
Extended Polling Hours	\$ 5,228.45	\$ 4,549.50	\$ 678.95	\$ -	\$ 5,228.45
CCP IT Grant	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00
MA Vulnerable Prep Grant	\$ 16.71	\$ 16.71	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.71
Fire Safety Grant	\$ 5,503.81	\$ 5,503.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,503.81
FF Safety Equipment Grant	\$ 10,313.09	\$ 863.09	\$ 9,450.00	\$ -	\$ 10,313.09
Highway MassWorks	\$ 9,713.31	\$ -	\$ 9,713.31	\$ -	\$ 9,713.31
Water Operations	\$ 13,783.49	\$ 178,123.00	\$ -	\$ 164,339.51	\$ 13,783.49
COA State Grant	\$ 9,756.04	\$ 6,942.34	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,186.30	\$ 9,756.04
COA Better Together	\$ 8,773.66	\$ 8,773.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,773.66
Arts Council	\$ 7,179.26	\$ 6,462.26	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,783.00	\$ 7,179.26
State Aid to Libraries	\$ 17,152.66	\$ 19,204.84	\$ 4,583.17	\$ 6,635.35	\$ 17,152.66
Library ALA Grant	\$ 1,158.59	\$ 1,158.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,158.59
Library Patio MDFA	\$ 10,067.00	\$ 15,800.00	\$ -	\$ 5,733.00	\$ 10,067.00
Covid 19 Grant	\$ 656.73	\$ 656.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 656.73
EDC Redo Grant	\$ 27,453.16	\$ 29,128.16	\$ 1,325.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 27,453.16
<b>Receipts Reserved for Appropriation:</b>					
Wetland Protection	\$ 1,978.27	\$ 3,428.27	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,978.27
Transportation Network	\$ 18.80	\$ 15.90	\$ 2.90	\$ -	\$ 18.80
<b>Revolving Funds:</b>					
Conservation Comm.	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -
Trust of Reserve Hist	\$ 217.50	\$ 217.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 217.50
Fire Department Revolving	\$ 8,717.85	\$ 4,894.75	\$ 12,555.00	\$ 8,731.90	\$ 8,717.85
Board of Health Revolving	\$ 1,991.35	\$ (1,793.65)	\$ 5,985.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,991.35
Electrical Fee Revolving	\$ 986.00	\$ 106.00	\$ 6,401.00	\$ 5,521.00	\$ 986.00
Plumbing Fees Revolving	\$ (2,055.00)	\$ (2,700.00)	\$ 2,945.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ (2,055.00)
COA Revolving	\$ 12,017.61	\$ 12,132.96	\$ 4,218.55	\$ 4,333.90	\$ 12,017.61
Board of Health Demo Fees	\$ 116.24	\$ 1,508.94	\$ 1,556.24	\$ 2,948.94	\$ 116.24

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL REVENUE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Fund Balances		Opening Balance		Rev		Exp		Balance/Entry	
	June 30, 2024									
Arts Council Local Receipts	\$ 853.26		\$ 580.14	\$ 5.79	\$ 518.31	\$ (5.79)	\$ 245.19	\$ -	\$ 853.26	
Planning Board-Solar 53G	\$ -		\$ 894.32	\$ 10,641.95	\$ 10,641.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,536.27	
Planning Board-G Millard 2 53G	\$ 11,536.27		\$ 2,869.31	\$ 154.92	\$ 154.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,024.23	
Planning Board-Otis Stage 53G	\$ 3,024.23		\$ 1,994.35	\$ 549.52	\$ 549.52	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ -	\$ 1,993.87	
Planning Board-Fleur Marijuana 53G	\$ 1,993.87		\$ 901.62	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 901.62	
Conservation-Fleur Marijuana 53G	\$ 901.62		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,580.47	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 901.62	
Insurance Revolving	\$ 6,580.47		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,830.00	\$ -	\$ 14,830.00	\$ -	\$ 6,580.47	
Highway Insurance	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Conservation Fund-Shepard	\$ 1,165.00		\$ 1,165.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,165.00	
<b>Other Special Revenue:</b>										
Fire Dept Donation	\$ 67.41		\$ 232.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165.00	\$ -	\$ 67.41	
Berkshire Trail Riders	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
Recreation Donations	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00	
Skating Rink Project	\$ 395.00		\$ 395.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395.00	
Elections CTCL	\$ 31.73		\$ 31.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31.73	
GRSD Intern Grant	\$ 876.00		\$ 876.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 876.00	
Baystate Health	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310,585.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310,585.87	
CAF II	\$ 310,585.87		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 422.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 422.68	
OPIOID Settlement Fees	\$ 422.68		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 422.68	
<b>Total Special Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 588,561.15</b>		<b>\$ 360,802.18</b>	<b>\$ 608,584.87</b>	<b>\$ 380,825.90</b>	<b>\$ 588,561.15</b>				

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
CAPITAL PROJECTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2024	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
<b>Capital Projects:</b>					
Chapter 90-State Grant	\$ (233,832.25)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 233,832.25	\$ (233,832.25)
2018 Mack Truck	\$ 185.00	\$ 185.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185.00
Highway Plow Truck	\$ 2,155.20	\$ 2,155.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,155.20
Town Road Improvement	\$ 1,199.01	\$ (298,799.99)	\$ 299,999.00	\$ -	\$ 1,199.01
Town Road Improvement	\$ 39.94	\$ 39.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39.94
Water Treatment	\$ (26,700.00)	\$ (23,199.61)	\$ -	\$ 3,500.39	\$ (26,700.00)
Broadband	\$ (1,522,922.91)	\$ (1,601,051.13)	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 46,871.78	\$ (1,522,922.91)
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$ (1,779,876.01)</b>	<b>\$ (1,920,670.59)</b>	<b>\$ 424,999.00</b>	<b>\$ 284,204.42</b>	<b>\$ (1,779,876.01)</b>

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - WATER ENTERPRISE FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual	Amounts	Variance with
	Carry Forward	Original Budget	Final Budget	Budgetary Basis	Carried Forward to Next Year	Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Water Usage Revenues	\$ -	\$ 695,567.00	\$ 695,587.00	\$ 657,523.69	\$ -	\$ (38,063.31)
Water Liens Added to Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Penalties & Interest	\$ -	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 22,432.20	\$ -	\$ 19,532.20
Earnings on Investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,529.99	\$ -	\$ 4,529.99
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,702.83	\$ -	\$ 1,702.83
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 698,467.00</b>	<b>\$ 698,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 686,188.71</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (12,298.29)</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current Fiscal Year:						
Salaries & Wages	\$ -	\$ 149,040.00	\$ 149,040.00	\$ 125,128.93	\$ -	\$ 23,911.07
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 348,525.00	\$ 348,525.00	\$ 289,315.44	\$ -	\$ 59,209.56
Debt Service:						
Debt-Principal	\$ -	\$ 108,023.33	\$ 108,023.33	\$ 108,023.72	\$ -	\$ (0.39)
Debt-Interest	\$ -	\$ 133,898.67	\$ 133,898.67	\$ 133,898.67	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Articles	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 656,366.76</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 83,120.24</b>
<b>Other Expenditures:</b>						
Prior Year Articles	\$ 4,823.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,823.43	\$ -	\$ -
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$ 149,935.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,935.70	\$ -
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 154,759.13</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,823.43</b>	<b>\$ 149,935.70</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 154,759.13</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 661,190.19</b>	<b>\$ 149,935.70</b>	<b>\$ 83,120.24</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ (154,759.13)</b>	<b>\$ (41,020.00)</b>	<b>\$ (41,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ 24,998.52</b>	<b>\$ (149,935.70)</b>	<b>\$ 70,821.95</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (34,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (34,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (34,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$ (154,759.13)</b>	<b>\$ (75,020.00)</b>	<b>\$ (75,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (9,001.48)</b>	<b>\$ (149,935.70)</b>	<b>\$ 70,821.95</b>
<b>Audit Adjustments</b>				\$ -		
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>		\$ 286,134.12	\$ 286,134.12	\$ 286,134.12	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ (154,759.13)</b>	<b>\$ 211,114.12</b>	<b>\$ 211,134.12</b>	<b>\$ 277,132.64</b>	<b>\$ (149,935.70)</b>	<b>\$ 70,821.95</b>

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
WATER EXPENSE REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Account Number	Description	Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Close	Carry Forward
<b>SALARIES &amp; WAGES</b>									
225450.000	Water Dept Supt Salary	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ -	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 18,526.07	\$ 20,473.93	\$ 20,473.93	\$ -
225450.003	Water Primary Operator	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ -	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 36,537.50	\$ 1,462.50	\$ 1,462.50	\$ -
225450.011	Water Dept Sec Salary	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 22,150.02	\$ (1,150.02)	\$ (1,150.02)	\$ -
225450.016	Water Dept Operator	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 14,156.10	\$ 2,343.90	\$ 2,343.90	\$ -
225450.017	Water Commissioner Stipend	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 6,700.00	\$ -	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 8,299.95	\$ (1,599.95)	\$ (1,599.95)	\$ -
225450.020	Water Dept Labor	\$ 27,840.00	\$ 27,840.00	\$ -	\$ 27,840.00	\$ 25,459.29	\$ 2,380.71	\$ 2,380.71	\$ -
	<b>Total Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>\$ 149,040.00</b>	<b>\$ 149,040.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 149,040.00</b>	<b>\$ 125,128.93</b>	<b>\$ 23,911.07</b>	<b>\$ 23,911.07</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
225450.002	Water Dept Utilities	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 49,109.00	\$ 10,891.00	\$ 10,891.00	\$ -
225450.004	Water Dept Chemicals	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 7,049.18	\$ 4,950.82	\$ 4,950.82	\$ -
225450.005	Water Dept Breaks & Repairs	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ -	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 39,192.85	\$ (3,192.85)	\$ (3,192.85)	\$ -
225450.006	Water Dept Testing	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,742.00	\$ (1,242.00)	\$ (1,242.00)	\$ -
225450.009	Water Dept Dues, Fees, Memberships	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 422.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 828.00	\$ -
225450.010	Water Dept Office Expense	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,352.45	\$ (352.45)	\$ (352.45)	\$ -
225450.012	Water Dept Equip Repairs	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,014.90	\$ (1,014.90)	\$ (1,014.90)	\$ -
225450.018	Water Education & Train	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,399.00	\$ 101.00	\$ 101.00	\$ -
225450.028	Water Department Maintenance	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 31,181.37	\$ (1,181.37)	\$ (1,181.37)	\$ -
225450.029	Water Dept Capital Expenses	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 78,821.70	\$ 71,178.30	\$ 71,178.30	\$ -
225450.032	Water Waste Removal	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -
225450.033	Water Metering System	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ -	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 3,159.40	\$ 4,040.60	\$ 4,040.60	\$ -
225450.034	SCADA Project	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 65,871.59	\$ (25,871.59)	\$ (25,871.59)	\$ -
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 348,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 348,525.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 348,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 289,315.44</b>	<b>\$ 59,209.56</b>	<b>\$ 59,209.56</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>DEBT</b>									
225751.001	Phase 1	\$ 31,153.00	\$ 31,153.00	\$ -	\$ 31,153.00	\$ 31,153.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225751.002	Phase 2	\$ 28,062.33	\$ 28,062.33	\$ -	\$ 28,062.33	\$ 28,062.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225751.003	Phase 3	\$ 26,192.00	\$ 26,192.00	\$ -	\$ 26,192.00	\$ 26,192.39	\$ (0.39)	\$ (0.39)	\$ -
225751.004	Phase 4	\$ 22,616.00	\$ 22,616.00	\$ -	\$ 22,616.00	\$ 22,616.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Principal</b>	<b>\$ 108,023.33</b>	<b>\$ 108,023.33</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 108,023.33</b>	<b>\$ 108,023.72</b>	<b>\$ (0.39)</b>	<b>\$ (0.39)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
225752.001	Phase 1	\$ 25,895.45	\$ 25,895.45	\$ -	\$ 25,895.45	\$ 25,895.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225752.002	Phase 2	\$ 42,635.67	\$ 42,635.67	\$ -	\$ 42,635.67	\$ 42,635.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225752.003	Phase 3	\$ 43,911.61	\$ 43,911.61	\$ -	\$ 43,911.61	\$ 43,911.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225752.004	Phase 4	\$ 21,455.94	\$ 21,455.94	\$ -	\$ 21,455.94	\$ 21,455.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>\$ 133,898.67</b>	<b>\$ 133,898.67</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 133,898.67</b>	<b>\$ 133,898.67</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>\$ 241,922.00</b>	<b>\$ 241,922.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 241,922.00</b>	<b>\$ 241,922.39</b>	<b>\$ (0.39)</b>	<b>\$ (0.39)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 739,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 656,366.76</b>	<b>\$ 83,120.24</b>	<b>\$ 83,120.24</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS</b>									
225991.002	Transfers to Stabilization Fund	\$ -	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225450.023	Transfer to General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Indirect Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 34,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 34,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>ARTICLES &amp; ENCUMBRANCES</b>									
225450.808	FY23 Various Water	\$ 4,823.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,823.43	\$ 4,823.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
225450.806	FY23 Capital Expenses Encumbrance	\$ 149,935.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,935.70	\$ -	\$ 149,935.70	\$ -	\$ 149,935.70
	<b>Total Articles &amp; Encumbrances</b>	<b>\$ 154,759.13</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 154,759.13</b>	<b>\$ 4,823.43</b>	<b>\$ 149,935.70</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 149,935.70</b>

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 WATER EXPENSE REPORT  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Account Number	Description	Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Close	Carry Forward
<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES</b>									
		\$ 154,759.13	\$ 773,487.00	\$ -	\$ 928,246.13	\$ 695,190.19	\$ 233,055.94	\$ 83,120.24	\$ 149,935.70

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BROADBAND ENTERPRISE FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual	Amounts Carried	Variance with Final Budget
	Carry Forward	Original Budget	Final Budget	Budgetary Basis	Forward to Next Year	Positive (Negative)
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Broadband Subscriber Revenues	\$ -	\$ 276,707.00	\$ 279,707.00	\$ 478,432.26	\$ -	\$ 198,725.26
Earnings on Investments	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,048.19	\$ -	\$ 9,048.19
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 279,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 279,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 487,480.45</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 207,773.45</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current Fiscal Year:						
Salaries & Wages	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 313,707.00	\$ 313,707.00	\$ 224,197.74	\$ -	\$ 89,509.26
Debt Service:						
Debt-Principal	\$ -	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Debt-Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Articles	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 444,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 444,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 355,197.74</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 89,509.26</b>
<b>Other Expenditures:</b>						
Prior Year Articles	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 444,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 444,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 355,197.74</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 89,509.26</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (165,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (165,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ 132,282.71</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 297,282.71</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (100,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (100,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (100,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (265,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (265,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ 32,282.71</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 297,282.71</b>
<b>Audit Adjustments</b>				\$ -		
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>		\$ 516,876.79	\$ 516,876.79	\$ 516,876.79	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 251,876.79</b>	<b>\$ 251,876.79</b>	<b>\$ 549,159.50</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 297,282.71</b>

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS AND AGENCY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Fund Balances		Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
	June 30, 2023	Opening Balance			
<b>Trust Funds:</b>					
<i>Non-Expendable:</i>					
Arms Bicentennial	\$ 15,553.14	\$ 15,553.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,553.14
Watson Dean Park Cemetery 1 & 2	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
Soenburger Cemetery	\$ 11,171.01	\$ 11,171.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,171.01
Sarah Robbins Cemetery Care	\$ 2,608.65	\$ 2,608.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,608.65
Taggart School	\$ 23,116.46	\$ 23,116.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,116.46
Nye School	\$ 7,916.50	\$ 7,916.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,916.50
Watson School	\$ 5,361.38	\$ 5,361.38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,361.38
Electa-Watson	\$ 1,342.63	\$ 1,342.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,342.63
Lot Sale Perpetual Care	\$ 3,179.20	\$ 3,179.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,179.20
Electa-Watson	\$ 46,693.67	\$ 46,693.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,693.67
Lot Sale Perpetual Care	\$ 8,893.27	\$ 8,893.27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,893.27
<i>Expendable Trust:</i>					
Cemetery 1 & 2	\$ 4,120.54	\$ 3,341.69	\$ 778.85	\$ -	\$ 4,120.54
Soenburger Cemetery	\$ 65.04	\$ (71.22)	\$ 136.26	\$ -	\$ 65.04
Susan Tiffany Cemetery	\$ 82,073.86	\$ 86,879.82	\$ 17,077.72	\$ 21,883.68	\$ 82,073.86
Cemetery Care	\$ 8,227.63	\$ 20,360.26	\$ 1,467.37	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 8,227.63
Taggart School	\$ 4,083.39	\$ 3,411.94	\$ 671.45	\$ -	\$ 4,083.39
Nye School	\$ 6,893.16	\$ 6,664.02	\$ 229.14	\$ -	\$ 6,893.16
Watson School	\$ 2,078.21	\$ 1,810.44	\$ 267.77	\$ -	\$ 2,078.21
Electa-Watson	\$ 67,906.57	\$ 60,441.32	\$ 7,465.25	\$ 900.00	\$ 67,906.57
Arms Bicentennial	\$ 7,427.46	\$ 7,059.81	\$ 1,267.65	\$ -	\$ 7,427.46
Watson Dean Park	\$ 426,539.04	\$ 375,875.38	\$ 64,856.31	\$ 14,192.65	\$ 426,539.04
Lot Sale Perpetual Care	\$ 4,336.31	\$ 3,657.61	\$ 678.70	\$ -	\$ 4,336.31
Sarah Robbins	\$ 2,428.76	\$ 1,127.61	\$ 1,301.15	\$ -	\$ 2,428.76
OECD Septic Accounts	\$ 24,886.30	\$ 23,605.88	\$ 1,280.42	\$ -	\$ 24,886.30
<b>Stabilization Accounts:</b>					
Stabilization	\$ 694,754.51	\$ 636,127.34	\$ 58,627.17	\$ -	\$ 694,754.51
Library Building	\$ 36,717.97	\$ 139,542.48	\$ 32,175.49	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 36,717.97
Building Projects	\$ 761,758.05	\$ 699,282.24	\$ 62,475.81	\$ -	\$ 761,758.05
Capital Projects	\$ 127,555.70	\$ 126,628.00	\$ 927.70	\$ -	\$ 127,555.70
Wired West	\$ 105,193.43	\$ 4,231.29	\$ 100,962.14	\$ -	\$ 105,193.43
Education	\$ 96,298.79	\$ 109,094.46	\$ 4,178.33	\$ 16,974.00	\$ 96,298.79
Water	\$ 124,598.88	\$ 118,424.00	\$ 6,174.88	\$ -	\$ 124,598.88
<b>Agency Funds:</b>					
Employee Withholdings	\$ 786.05	\$ 9,548.46	\$ 3,849.30	\$ 12,611.71	\$ 786.05
Police Dept Firearms Fund	\$ 12,544.00	\$ 12,374.00	\$ 2,270.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 12,544.00
Deputy Collector Fees	\$ 314.26	\$ (181.74)	\$ 3,954.00	\$ 3,458.00	\$ 314.26
Town Clerk's Fees	\$ 1,101.60	\$ 1,059.60	\$ 1,057.00	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 1,101.60
Conservation Fees	\$ -	\$ 275.00	\$ -	\$ 275.00	\$ -
Southern Hilltown	\$ 305.43	\$ 305.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 305.43
<b>Total Trust &amp; Agency Funds</b>	<b>\$ 2,768,830.85</b>	<b>\$ 2,616,711.03</b>	<b>\$ 374,129.86</b>	<b>\$ 222,010.04</b>	<b>\$ 2,768,830.85</b>



## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Blandford Animal Control had a busy year in 2024 responding to many calls for service, including assists with locating lost dogs, reuniting owners and pets, investigating complaints of animal neglect, pet adoptions, responding to wildlife concerns, etc.

The goal of the Blandford Animal Control is to protect and care for all animals in the town to the best of our ability.

In 2025, I will continue my efforts to educate the citizens of Blandford on the importance of licensing dogs. Several dogs have been reunited due to being properly licensed. The data base is easily accessed in the field so that I can identify a dog and contact their owner quickly without having to place the dog in the towns kennel and spend wasted time attempting to learn who the dog belongs to and how to get them home.

As 2024 closes out, I would like to remind citizens to read and understand the town by laws pertaining to animals in Blandford. If you have questions, you can always reach the ACO at (413) 207-2397.

Jen Dubiel, Animal Control Officer

## **BOARD of ASSESSORS**

Dr. David Hopson, Chair; Paul Martin, Member; Steve Jemiolo, Member; Harald Scheid, Regional Assessor; Cathy Smelcer, Administrative Assistant

### **THE ROLE OF ASSESSORS IN MUNICIPAL FINANCE**

In Massachusetts, assessors are either appointed or elected to three-year terms. The assessors' primary responsibility is to value all real estate and personal property subject to taxation. Assessed valuations are based on "full and fair cash value" as of the January 1st preceding each fiscal year. In order to maintain assessments at or near market value, the assessors' regularly compare property valuations with the selling prices of properties that have sold. Assessment-to-sale ratio statistics are analyzed to determine the median assessment level, as well as, assessment uniformity. No valuation methodology can accurately predict what a property will sell for. A secondary, and perhaps more important role of the Board of Assessors is to generate equitable assessments. To that end we continually strive to maintain an accurate property database and refine valuation tables and formulas that yield both equitable and explainable assessments.

### **ABATEMENTS**

All taxpayers have the right to file for an abatement of their taxes if they believe that their property has not been fairly valued. Information regarding applications and deadlines to file for abatements is printed on tax bills, or can be obtained by calling the Assessors' Office at 413-848-4279 x200. Applicants should present compelling evidence to support a claim of overvaluation.

Applications for abatements are due on or before the due date for payment of the 3rd quarter bill (February 3, 2025). Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than February 3, 2025.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

An exemption releases an individual from the requirement to pay all or a part of their property tax obligation. Exemptions are available to those individuals that meet the various requirements in the following categories: • Elderly • Blind • Minor children of police/firefighters killed in the line of duty • Disabled Veteran • Widows or Widowers • Orphaned Minor Children Applications for personal exemptions are due on December 15th, or within ninety days of the mailing of the 3rd quarter bill (March 30, 2025).

### **APPEALS**

If you are not satisfied with the action taken by the Board of Assessors office regarding your request for abatement or exemption, you have the right to appeal to the State Appellate Tax Board, 100 Cambridge St. Boston, MA 02204. (617-727- 3100)

### Valuations by Property Class

<u>Property Class</u>	<u>Accts</u>	<u>Valuation</u>
Single Family Homes	512	178,094,700
Condominiums	0	0
Mobile Homes and Other Res	9	4,309,700
Two Family Homes	7	2,495,500
Three Family Homes	0	0
Multi Family (apartments)	0	0
Mixed Use	7	31,661,700
Vacant Land	316	15,686,600
Commercial	2	833,800
Industrial	8	1,484,300
Personal Property	121	72,487,687
Forest Lands - Chapter 61	75	535,973
Agricultural - Chapter 61A	51	347,832
Recreational - Chapter 61B	50	1,223,446
<b>TOTAL TAXABLE</b>		<b>\$309,161,238</b>
Exempt Properties	124	\$49,036,200
<b>TOTAL TAXABLE &amp; EXEMPT</b>		<b>\$358,197,438</b>

### History of Valuations, Tax Rates, and Levies

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
2025	309,161,238	11.71	3,620,278
2024	301,102,655	11.57	3,483,758
2023	261,156,956	11.66	3,567,404
2022	225,401,589	14.79	3,333,690
2021	176,383,678	17.76	3,132,574
2020	172,345,068	17.76	3,060,848
2019	172,107,675	17.21	2,961,973
2018	168,784,535	17.57	2,965,544
2017	171,719,531	16.94	2,908,929
2016	171,908,687	16.41	2,821,022

## Summary of Appropriations and Revenues

### **APPROPRIATIONS & OTHER EXPENDITURES**

Total Appropriations of Town Meeting	\$6,251,084
Cherry Sheet Offsets	5,219
Snow and Ice Deficit	33,595
Other Deficits	196
State and County Charges	7,807
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	31,228
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,329,129</b>

### **ANTICIPATED REVENUES**

<i>Property Tax Levy</i>	<b>\$3,620,278</b>
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#### *State Distributions -*

State Aid (Ch 70)	\$77,586
Exemption Reimbursements	18,521
Public Libraries	5,219
Unrestricted Government Aid	156,348
State Owned Land Reimbursement	39,840
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$297,514</b>

#### *Local-Non-property Tax Revenues (anticipated)*

Motor Vehicle Excise	\$173,650
Meals Tax	30,820
Penalties & Interest on Taxes and Excises	17,000
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	203,000
Charges for Solid Waste Service	27,840
Fees	22,506
Rentals	13,080
Licenses and Permits	11,000
Fines and Forfeits	8,325
Investment Income	40,958
Miscellaneous non-recurring	619
Enterprise Revenues	1,402,477
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,951,275</b>

#### *Other Sources of Revenue*

Free Cash	\$313,424
Other Available Funds	146,638
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>460,062</b>

<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 6,329,129</b>
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**How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent**  
**Based on Operating Budget**

<b>SERVICES/DEPARTMENTS</b>	<b>BUDGET%</b>	<b>BUDGET\$</b>
General Government	18.0%	788,688
Public Safety	6.6%	289,227
Education	42.9%	1,876,261
Public Works	16.3%	713,749
Human Services	3.7%	162,153
Culture & Recreation	2.5%	107,346
Debt Service	0.0%	0
Capital Projects	0.0%	0
Special Assessments	0.0%	0
Employee Benefits	7.8%	339,171
Other Insurance	2.2%	95,087
<b>TOTAL BUDGET*</b>		<b>\$4,371,682</b>

\*Does not include Town Enterprises (e.g. Landfill)

**Approximate Cost of Services**  
**to the Average Single Family Homeowner**

<b>TOWN SERVICES</b>	
General Government	\$735
Public Safety	269
Education	1,748
Public Works	665
Human Services	151
Culture & Recreation	100
Debt Service	-0-
Capital Projects	-0-
Special Assessments	-0-
Employee Benefits	316
Other Insurance	89
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE TAX BILL</b>	<b>\$4,073</b>
(Based on an average single-family home valuation of \$347,800)	

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Seventy permits were issued by the building department during FY 2024 which is still above average from previous years. One new single family dwelling permit was issued, while fourteen more were for major home renovations, additions, or large garage/barn projects. Four commercial permits were issued as well.

Fifteen energy conservations permits pulled this year including solar installations, window/ replacements, and insulation and air sealing upgrades. Eight permits were also issued for wood or pellet stoves. Please note that the installation of any solid-fuel burning appliance (wood stoves, pellet stoves, etc.) requires a permit, regardless of the installer. The fee for this permit is reasonable, required by all home insurance companies, and important to the safety of the inhabitants of the structure. If you have already installed one of these devices, you can still apply for a permit and have a quick inspection. The remaining permits issued included those for sheds, roofing, etc.

A concerted effort is being made to try and more strictly enforce our zoning bylaws in an effort to maintain property values and the public safety of all residents. Please feel free to reach out any time with any concerns you may have throughout town and I will address accordingly. In the coming years, we plan to continue to take numerous actions to clean up several of the blighted properties around town.

A large thank you goes out to all of the other town departments and boards for their assistance and cooperation when requested. The dedication of these numerous, primarily volunteer, individuals is greatly appreciated and a testament to their commitment to the betterment of our town.

I am consistently in the area so please feel free to reach out to me anytime at (413) 205-6504. Copies of each type of building permit application are located on the outside of my office door for you to pick up at your convenience if the online permitting system is not a viable option.  
Jason Forgue, Building Commissioner

## CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

There were nine burials in 2024. A marker naming the Blandford Hill Cemetery was placed on site and was donated by Rayma and Michael Wojcik.

The roadway was repaved with fresh millings, started in 2023 and completed in 2024.

Two trees were removed.

One mower was replaced and another may have to be replaced this year. One trailer was repaired and donated to Watson Park.

The commissioners are selling an E-Mark walk-behind, asking \$2,500; a finish gang mower pull-behind which needs a little repair, asking \$1,000 and a walk-behind leaf blower is for sale, asking \$500.

The commissioners have purchased a 2023 Kubota BX 2380 tractor with bucket loader.

Several fallen grave markers in Hill Cemetery and Borth Blandford Cemetery have been repaired; several of the older markers in Hill Cemetery have been cleaned.

Peter Sparks has continued his work on restoring Warfield Cemetery and Cemetery.

TJ Cousineau, Chair; Peter Sparks and Stephen Jemiolo, commissioners

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Blandford Conservation Commission (BCC) has continued to administer the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and provide oversight of Town owned conservation land under its control. The current Commission members are Dick Gates (Chair), John Piper, Colleen Doyle, and Nathan Maynard. The Town's Conservation Agent (Nic Pietroniro) resigned in December 2024 and the Commission is taking steps to re-fill the position. We would welcome a new member to round out this five-member Commission.

A mitigation project that required a culvert replacement on Gibbs Road by one of the large solar projects was completed. The BCC also has continued to work diligently with the developers of the Belle Fleur Marijuana Cultivation facility on Otis Stage Road as there have been significant changes in that project's scope over time and to ensure compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act.

Other activities of the BCC related to the Wetlands Protection Act have included reviewing Requests for Determination, issuing Determinations of Applicability, reviewing projects, issuing Orders of Conditions (Permits) for those projects, issuing amended Orders of Conditions and Extensions of Orders. Additional activities include reviewing local building permits and issuing hunting permits for the Knittel, Shephard Farm, and Long Pond Conservation Areas. The Commission is also anticipating reviewing Notices of Intent for two Battery Storage Facilities proposed for North Blandford Road. Preliminary meetings have been held with both developers.

In conjunction with updating the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, the longer term-goals of the BCC are to develop more passive recreational use of the Town owned Conservation Properties, and this would include improved parking areas and hiking trail development at Long Pond and Shephard Farm. The Commission will be updating the Forest Stewardship Plan for Shepard Farm and has received cost share funds from the State for the project.

Dick Gates, Chair Conservation Commission



## COUNCIL ON AGING

The Blandford Council on Aging continues to welcome all who would like to join us. We do support and offer senior programs, but our doors are open to everyone. This past year, two new programs have been introduced and are being enjoyed by many people of varying ages.

On the first Friday of the month, we offer a fun group appropriately named “Games and Gab”. There are usually around a dozen people who get together from 2 - 4 P.M. to play various games, such as cards, board games and dice. A lot of socializing and laughter is mixed in with game time. Come join the fun!

Another new group is the watercolor painting class. This class is taught by Sue Racine, who was able to get a grant from the Blandford Cultural Council. Sue started with 8 people and now, at times has 13. The maximum number she can comfortably have in the room is 14. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Sue to see if she has room for anyone for a particular month. This class is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.

Our Monday morning Balance, Strength, and Flexibility class, taught by Heidi, continues to be very popular. Heidi usually has 10 – 14 people in the class, including 4 to 5 out of town people.

Heidi provides a thorough workout with the use of various equipment, such as Hula hoops, stretchy bands, dumbbells, body bars, tennis balls, big bouncy balls. A portion of the class is seated, but standing exercises are also incorporated that lead to better balance. The class is free to town residents. Out of town residents are charged \$5 per class.

Last, but not least, we continue to have wonderful attendance at our monthly breakfasts and lunches. Thank you, Joann, for your wonderful meals and hard work. Margit J. Mikuski, Director; Joann Martin, Chair, Barbara Langmore, Bob Twyman, Heidi Taberman and Pat Lombardo, board members.

## CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Cultural Council received \$5,700 in grant money from Mass Lottery funding. We also had incumbered funds, interest earned in the amount of \$143.31, The Council funds \$247 and money earned from the Artisan Exhibition in the amount of \$40.93. We had a total of \$7,100 to grant for 2025 as follows:

Mass MoCA for Gateway Regional	\$200
Sevenars Concert	\$800
Blandford Fair Art Show	\$750
Mother Goose Puppets at the Library	\$495
Becket Arts Center	\$500
Blandford Opera (Historical Society)	\$1,500
Dennis Wise "Theft of Dignity" Gateway	\$680
Littleville Fair	\$300
Hofbrauhaus Bavarians at Blandford Fair	\$800
Needle Felting	\$575
Hilltown Community Health Center	\$500
	\$7,100 total

Susan Racine, Chair; Lisa Bruno, Cindy Carr, Mary Kronholm, Janet Strausberg, members.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

As the new Finance Committee Chair, I, Jacqueline (Jackie) Coury, would like to extend a sincere thank you to Janet Lombardo for chairing the committee for the past few years. We are incredibly thankful that Janet remains on our committee as she continues to share her wealth of experience, which is invaluable. In addition, I would like to thank Kevin Green and Deborah Brodie who continue as valued members of our committee devoting not only their time but their experience as well, ensuring we provide fiscally responsible recommendations for the Town of Blandford.

The Finance Committee works throughout the year in collaboration with the Town Administrator, Cristina Ferrera. Cristina plays a critical role in keeping the Committee informed when financial recommendations are required, as well as she plays a crucial role during the budget season in providing additional municipal information, insight, and knowledge. She coordinates the budget planning process and prepares the warrant for the most major step in this process, which is approval by the Selectboard and the Blandford residents' vote.

Each department head meets with the committee, gives an update on their current budget, and shares their insights into what they will need in the new year for their operational budget, as well as sharing what may be needed in the way of Capital expenditure. Every department puts a great deal of thought and effort into staying within their current year budgets and as they prepare for the new year, they approach the Finance Committee with thoughtful plans with the intent of keeping expenses under control to the best of their ability.

We want to thank every department head for their continued support and diligence as the process of responsible and timely budgeting is critically important to all residents.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Town of Blandford Annual Town Meeting.  
Jacqueline Coury, Chair.

Janet Lombardo, Deborah Brodie, Kevin Green

## **BLANDFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In 2024, the Blandford fire department responded to roughly 110 calls. As is the case in most fire services, the calls tended to be medical in nature - with roughly 70% of the volume requiring our EMS response.

The department welcomed several new members into our ranks and which is helping improve the number of members we bring to any scene. Of particular importance, several members were located in town - improving response times as well.

Our collaboration with Hilltown continues to be a success where they assist with medical support and transportation of patients to a hospital setting.

The department has settled on a replacement brush truck to upgrade from our nearly 30-year-old brush truck - delivery will take some time but we're appreciate of the Town's support to dramatically upgrade our wildland fire response.

Our aging Engine 1 continues to degrade and, unfortunately, will need to be replaced. We've budgeted funds but remain in a bit of a Catch 22 in that it is impossibly difficult to fit a modern engine in our station - and our station needs to be replaced.

Adam Dolby  
Fire Chief  
(413)-848-4279 ext. 600

## BOARD OF HEALTH

We have maintained a very strong board and have been able to build and expand our services in these challenging times. It has been three years since the pandemic and although the level of outbreaks has significantly reduced, there are still critical health concerns in our community. We continue to address these concerns.

We are happy to report that our health care services are rapidly growing with our blood pressure and glucose clinic on the second and fourth Monday of the month. We have had many residents take advantage of our in-home wellness check program. Please reach out to the Board of Health for more information on our public health programs.

Since the pandemic, the state has awarded small towns with a shared excellence grant and the Board of Health has officially become part of the Western Hampden County Public Health District. The goal of these shared services is to increase public health services and strengthen local public health departments.

Our transfer station continues to grow its services for our residents with another new program called the Swap Shop Shack. This program was started this year and will be completed in 2025. The Board of Health has applied for a grant to help reduce the costs. This Swap Shop Shack will be a place where residents can give and take items that are in good working condition. This shop is intended to reduce the number of reusable items we put in landfills at the same time helping residents. This program is in addition to our Big Brother Big Sister Foundation program.

The Blandford Board of Health is responsible by state statutes to perform crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, control of disease, promotion of sanitary living and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. Our Board of Health protects the public through education, inspections while overseeing communicable diseases, emergency preparedness, sanitary conditions, food establishments, beaver trapping, percolation tests subsurface sewerage, well installations and the transfer station.

In the coming year we will continue to develop and implement programs and lead our community towards improving better health.

As always, we would like to address public concerns, identify issues and together, work on delivering a more positive environment for all.

This year the following issues were handled:

### **Permits**

Food Permits – 6  
Cottage Kitchen – 2  
Camp - 1  
Beaver – 1  
Tobacco – 2  
Hauling – 3  
Sewer – 5  
Perc – 22

### **Complaints**

Environmental Health – 8  
Housing – 3  
Insects – 1  
Hazardous – 1  
Nuisance – 4  
Water Purity and Quality – 2

### **Health**

Covid 19 – 12  
TB – 0  
Influenza – 17  
HGA – 4  
Lyme – 7  
Hep C and B - 3  
Pertussis – 1

Bret Hartley, Chair; Jennifer Girard, Pat Lombardo, members

**HILLTOWN COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**

**1/1/24 - 12/31/24**

**Operations:**

Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, Inc. (HCAA) is the primary ambulance service provider for the Town of Blandford. The other towns located within our primary service area include Chester, Huntington, Montgomery, Russell, and Worthington, covering approximately 8100 individuals over approximately 220 sq mi. HCAA also provides mutual aid responses to the Towns of Middlefield and Becket, as well as being assisted with ALS intercept services by our neighboring Cities/Towns of Westfield, Northampton, and Becket when the need arises.

HCAA is a 24/7 service and was staffed at the paramedic level 99% of the time for the period of 2024. Our fleet consists of 2 ambulances that are in service and, when a second crew is available, both ambulances are able to respond to calls.

**Town Events/Community Education:**

In addition to being the primary provider of ambulance services, we also provide standby services at the annual Blandford Fair for the various scheduled events. HCAA also participated in the annual Health & Wellness Fair, allowing us the opportunity to interact with our neighbors and friends firsthand and provide any resources or answer any questions that may arise.

HCAA provides education and training to residents of the community that are free of charge. During 2024, HCAA presented a Stop the Bleed class to help familiarize individuals on immediate life saving actions should an emergent bleed arise. HCAA also provides a variety of certification courses, including American Heart Association BLS CPR and AED, for a registration fee. Keep an eye out on our social media platforms for upcoming classes and blood pressure drives, as well as visit our website for what classes are offered. If you are interested in participating or hosting a class that is not scheduled, please do not hesitate to reach out.

**Emergency Responses:**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Calls</b>
Blandford	89	12.1%
Chester	112	15.3%
Huntington	191	26.1%
Middlefield	2	0.3%
Montgomery	70	9.5%
Russell	143	19.5%
Worthington	126	17.2%

*In 2024, HCAA responded to a total of 733 calls for service within the surrounding 6 towns and neighboring communities (See table).*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jade Rice- Chief Financial Officer

## HISTIRICAL COMMISSION

Along with our ongoing attention for restoration and maintenance of historic Watson Park and for historic Shepard Farm, our main focus recently has been the continuing effort on the town-wide inventory forms for all properties in Blandford. Shannon Walsh, historic preservationist at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, finished her work on the forms for the buildings and landscapes in the center of town which may lead to the creation of a historic district. These forms are submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and Walsh believes the center of town may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Our budget includes funding set aside for work on further inventory forms by Walsh.

Each year, our commission is donating another book to Porter Memorial Library connected to a historical topic. We have enjoyed collaborating with the library's director, Nicole Daviau, on related projects such as the StoryWalk in historic Watson Park. There is information along the pathway there about key features of this important park, donated by Dr. Deane in memory of town resident Electa B. Watson.

Our board suffered a shock at the unexpected loss of our colleague and friend Peter Milford, the last remaining original member of the Historical Commission after 20 years of service. In addition to being elected Water Commissioner, serving on the Conservation Commission and on the Board of Directors of the Blandford Historical Society, and assisting with the Blandford 250<sup>th</sup> celebration – all in the 1980s, he provided volunteer repair work on the Art Building at the Fair and was a member of the town's first Tree Committee in the 2000s. Peter worked tirelessly at Watson Park for over 35 years on the two barns, the gazebo, the plantings, and the trees. He loved being in nature, so the park was significant to him. He saw the value of saving and honoring the early history and culture of the town through his efforts there and at the Shepard Farm property, among others. That commitment and labor was often done behind the scenes, wanting to make Blandford a better place. He will be missed and remembered for his knowledge and quiet leadership while his legacy will continue to be felt through his lasting contributions to the town.

In addition, the commission saw Mick Brennan and Janet Strausberg step off the board following many years of service. We thank them for their valuable assistance with our work, especially at Shepard Farm and for the inventory forms. We also appreciated their humor and enthusiasm!

Our upcoming plans include working with the Conservation Commission on the Shepard Farm property, continuing to support the ongoing project of filing the inventory forms with the Mass Historical Commission. These efforts are done in response to our commission's charge by the state to preserve and protect the town's historical and archeological resources, buildings, and landscapes.  
Jo-Anne Auclair, Secretary

## PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Over the past year, Porter Memorial Library continued to provide patrons with excellent service and access to a variety of valuable resources. In addition to myself, our hard-working staff of three library techs: Kim Chaffee, Michele Crane, Lucia Sullivan, and archivist Sam Stevens, have significantly increased foot traffic, circulation, programming, and patron registration. Chrysti Jones and Mallary Crossman joined the library team as substitutes and have learned quickly and enthusiastically.

In 2024 the library checked out 10,951 items to patrons, an increase of 20% over the previous year. Blandford residents checked out \$146,940 of materials this year, significantly more than the library's entire budget. The library was visited 3,792 times, which is a 27% increase over 2023. The library had 51 new patrons register for library cards in 2024, which brings the total number of registered borrowers to 455.

In addition to serving the residents of Blandford, Porter Memorial sends materials through the inter library loan system to other communities across the state. In 2024 the library lent out 4,118 items through this service. As CWMARS members, patrons in Blandford received 2,124 items from other libraries through this delivery system.

PML's collection has grown in 2024, adding 1683 items to the collection- a value of \$35,475. The library has 12,192 items in the collection, including books, DVD's, puzzles, and games, valued at \$289,380. In addition, the library provides free printing, scanning, copying, and technology help. A generous donation from a resident has made it possible for the library to maintain three internet hotspots that patrons may check out. Patrons regularly utilize the ancestry and genealogy research skills of Sam Stevens, who has also worked to maintain the order of our Archive at the Town Hall. Porter Memorial Library has the only complete collection of The Country Journal extending back to 1979, this collection was partially on Microfilm however the town does not have a functioning microfilm reader. In December the collection was sent to Advantage Archives to be digitized and is now accessible online in a searchable database.

With a bustling dramatic play area, scavenger hunts, daily school vacation programming, and Pokemon club, the library has been a very popular place for kids of all ages. We have heard from parents that this has had a significant impact on their children's school break - giving parents the ability to do something fun and educational with their kids that is both easy to get to and free. The library offers a safe and reliable environment where kids and caregivers make friends and socialize outside of school and home. Our skilled library staff help families pick out books to bring home, creating a culture of literacy and family reading time.

Book Squirms, a birth to age five and caregiver story time, happens twice a week, Wednesday mornings and Tuesday evenings. With singing, story time, crafts and sensory play time, this program brings in children and parents from across the Hilltowns and is very well attended. Michele Crane's dedication and excitement for the Book Squirm program has been instrumental in its success.

The 2024 summer reading program took kids on an exploration of the US National Parks and featured nine weeks of programming. We exploded model volcanoes, learned about different colors of bacteria in Yellowstone springs, created sand art mimicking the layers of rock in the Grand Canyon, and so much more. This year the Blandford Recreation Committee provided an Ice Cream Truck for our Summer Reading kick off program, a story time featuring Smokey Bear. This event was open to the public and many new families began to show up to the library after coming for ice cream and Smokey. A collaboration with Hilltown Family Center provided a grant funded Music and Movement class at the Town Hall after the weekly preschool summer program and was a highlight of the week for many families. In September, kids came to the library to stuff their backpack with books to keep. Halloween and Winter Vacation also featured a book giveaway for kids.

Attendance at our adult programming has been steadily increasing. With the help of Lucia Sullivan and Michele Crane the adult book club has continued to grow and reach new readers - this year the book club read 12 books in a range of genres and hosted lively monthly discussions about the



readings. Every month between 12 and 25 people participate in the club, maximizing library occupancy limits.

The library distributed 202 pairs of eclipse glasses and hosted an eclipse viewing party. The weekend after Thanksgiving was the fourth annual Holiday Photo program and took 28 family photos. The Annual Gingerbread Cookie Party had 22 attendees who decorated (and ate) cookies and listened to a Gingerbread story time.

Using surveys, interviews, community conversations, and a SOAR exercise, I created the five-year Strategic Plan for 2026-2031 and submitted it to the MBLC in October for approval. This plan identifies goals and objectives for the next five years. These goals are: 1. Serve as a community connector, 2. Continue to have skilled staff that provide excellent service, 3. Foster learning at every level, and 4. Have a safe, accessible, and comfortable library with space for multiple activities.

The Porter Patio Project was finished in June, summer reading programming was easier to manage with the new space and we hosted a Meet and Greet for new Town Administrator there in the fall.

In March, town residents voted unanimously to support the library's application to the MBLC for the Library Planning and Design grant to expand the library building. In October the MBLC awarded the town the Library Planning and Design Grant. Work on this grant started immediately, with the creation of the Building Committee and the hiring of a Library Building Consultant.

The Porter Memorial Library made 2024 a year of historic growth and noticeable improvements. We are grateful for the support of the town and look forward to continuing to improve and serve the community of Blandford over the next year.

Nicole Daviau, Director

## **PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

In 2016, the Trustees of Porter Memorial Library announced a Long Range Plan to expand both the physical plant of the Library and the delivery of services to Library patrons. The plan was conceived to be executed in three phases: 1) Catalogue Conversion, 2) Reconfiguration & Renovation, 3) Expansion.

Completion of Phase 1 paved the way for PML to become a member library of the CW/MARS (Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) network, giving PML patrons access to over 9 million items in the collections of 144 member libraries.

The Reconfiguration & Renovation phase came to a close in 2024, with PML patrons enjoying the benefits of a new furnace, air conditioning, lighting, carpeting, wifi, not to mention expansion of the parking lot and repairs to the roof, gutters and bulkhead. While there are still minor repairs to be made, they have been folded into the next phase – Expansion.

Phase 3, Expansion, is underway. The first construction project, a stone Terrace on the North (Route 23) side of the Library, funded by a grant from the Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) was completed in 2024, The formal Opening, a Town-wide event was held in the early Fall. In addition to providing an outdoor space under the trees for Summer Reading programs and other PML events, the project funded regrading of the north and west sides of the building to prevent “ponding” damage to the foundation.

Given that the current PML facility is not in compliance with Fire Code regulations or ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines, the Trustees had two options to consider: 1) approach the Town to foot 100% of the cost of remediation and compliance or 2) apply for a competitive grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Public Library Construction Program which would fund up to 75% of an expansion.

PML applied for and was awarded a Planning and Design Grant from the MBLC, pending Town approval. At a Special Town Meeting on March 18, 2024 the Town agreed by vote to accept and expend State grant funds (if awarded) and to match the appropriation for the planning and design phase of the project from Town Funds.

In October, the MBLC formalized the grant award. A Building Committee was formed and in addition to regular meetings, sub-committee members held interviews for a Library Construction Consultant. On the committee’s recommendation, Patricia Basler was engaged by the Trustees to guide the development of the Building Program, the document that sets the construction parameters for the architects.

On the operations side, under leadership of Library Director Nicole Daviau, PML continues to develop deep engagement with the Blandford community -- the 482 current card-holders represent over 90% of Blandford households. Since 2018, foot traffic at PML has more than doubled, while circulation has tripled. Her efforts and success have been recognized statewide, with speaking engagements at the State House (twice) and the MBLC Annual Meeting, advocating for small libraries. She also served as President of the Western Massachusetts Library Association and was elected to the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Library System.

The dedicated and talented PML Staff provides an amazing array of programming geared to every constituency in Blandford, from toddlers to senior citizens. Whether it’s education or entertainment, book club or summer reading program, there is literally something for everyone at Porter Memorial Library.

Mary Kronholm, Chair; Charles Benson, Treasurer; Byam Stevens

## MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

The Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project is complete and fully operational. Service connections to Blandford homes began in the Spring of 2021. The network is owned by Blandford. Westfield Gas & Electric (Whip City Fiber) is the Internet Service Provider (ISP), and Network Operator (NO). There are 52.8 miles of fiber installed.

There are currently 435 customers, or approximately 88% of residences, signed up for the internet service. In addition, there are 103 phone subscribers.

It took several years to first design the network and then make the utility poles ready to install fiber network. Many poles had to be replaced and throughout the town existing electric and telephone lines had to be moved to allow room for fiber to be attached to the poles. Several areas such as turnpike crossings required custom engineering solutions and special permissions. Sertex began the actual construction on November 30, 2020. Constructing the fiber network was a three-step process: Installing steel strand on poles, lashing Fiber to the strand, and finally installing Multiport Service Terminals. The Town is divided into five (5) Fiber Service Areas (FSA's).

The Network Hub is located at 4 North Blandford Rd, and includes a Hut, generator and propane backup. We currently have 10 gigs of service into the Town. As of this writing, there have been no interruptions in the service.

If you are new to town, or have not yet done so, sign-ups can be done online through the website: [www.whipcityfiber.com/blandford](http://www.whipcityfiber.com/blandford) or by going to the Town of Blandford website. The cost for the service is only \$85 per month, plus installation costs.

The Blandford MLP wishes to thank all of you for the tremendous support you have given to this project!

Fiber is now available to 100% of homes in Blandford; Also, in partnership with our ISP and the Towns of Otis, Becket and Washington (Southern Cluster) a redundant network is now operational. This will insure that, in the event of an outage into any one town, the network will automatically switch to another circuit. With this redundancy, the service to the Town has been increased to 10 gigs.

Peter Langmore, Manager; Kim Bergland, June Masee, Members

## **PLANNING BOARD**

A comprehensive new bylaw for Battery Energy Storage Systems was created and approved by the State as well as an update on our small and medium-sized ground mounted solar systems. The Planning Board has also had preliminary meetings and discussions with two companies interested in installing battery energy storage systems which will be evaluated in 2025 if a special permit request is made.

The Town currently has one micro-marijuana growing operation which is fully licensed and in operation. The large marijuana growing operation, Belle Fleur Holdings, LLC, is scheduled for review by the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) in 2025 after many delays by the state and hopefully, they will be in full operation in 2025.

Our Town is continuing to receive significant revenue from property taxes and PILOT projects (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for the three solar fields in Blandford. We will also receive a large increase in property taxes from the greenhouses and processing building at Belle Fleur.

Paul Martin, Chairman

Edna Wilander, Vice Chair; Sarah Simpson, Secretary; Robert Twyman, Associate Member;  
Greg Garfield, member

## **CHESTER/BLANDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Chester-Blandford Police Department had a wonderful year in 2024. We continued our efforts to expand on equipment for the department that will benefit each town. From a new off-road utility vehicle that has already been used in rescues to body worn cameras that will be invaluable for officers working on patrols, our department is continuing the efforts to place the right equipment into the hands of the men and women proud to serve the town.

This past year the department responded to over 2000 calls for service and several events within our communities. We handled many complaints about speeding vehicles, aided fire and EMS on countless calls and enjoyed so many positive interactions with residents.

In 2024 the department was welcomed into the Blandford Fair to assist with police services, enjoyed Trunk or Treat events in our towns, provided a special escort of Santa during Chester on Track, took part in Memorial Day parades and had our annual toy drive to provide children with gifts for the holidays.

The police department is looking forward to 2025 and continuing our dedication to the communities in our efforts to provide safety for our residents and visitors.

Jennifer Dubiel, Chester/Blandford Police Chief

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Recreation Committee is looking for volunteers to help organize our 3-4 activities per year and also handy folks who can help build new games for the kids. Anyone interested please contact [jmartin@townofblandford.com](mailto:jmartin@townofblandford.com)

### **HALLOWEEN 2023**

Halloween 2023 was well attended on a Sunday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm in spite of the bad weather. Once again, the Board decided to hold the event outside. Our wish for having the event outside was not granted as it rained and poured. No worries! We moved the event inside the gymnasium and the day was saved. Trunk or Treat folks made the best of things and lined up down the long hallway decorating their tables for the occasion. There was plenty of candy, homemade cookies, a popcorn bar, hot chocolate, and hot mulled cider as well as a Story Walk in Watson Park sponsored by the Porter Memorial Library. There were games and lots of prizes..

### **MEMORIAL DAY 2024**

The plans were all set to move forward, and the rain arrived, again. Our plans for Memorial Day May 27, 2024, included dogs, burgers, sausages w/peppers and onions, all the salad types you could want, drinks, cookies, and dessert. The volunteers were all lined up to conquer the grills, the Ice cream truck was lined up for the day and the Committee planned the entertainment. And it rained. A decision was made to reschedule the picnic for Sunday, June 9 and it rained and rained some more. Sadly, our Memorial Day picnic was cancelled. We look forward to Memorial Day 2025 being a dry day!

### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2023**

The Recreation Committee joined in the fun for the Meet Santa Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 10, offering Starbucks Coffee and a Hot Chocolate bar with lots of fun add-ins. Hot Chocolate appears to be the new drink of choice for adults as well. Who knew! The Volunteer Fire Department did an impressive job dishing out pancakes and bacon with all the fixings. We look forward to this being a yearly tradition.

Keri Morawiec: Chairman; Joann Martin, Secretary; Charles Benson, Justin LaFrance, members

## TOWN CLERK

Statistics: there were 12 births, 14 deaths in 2024 and XXX marriages  
There are 1,007 registered voters and 546 occupied households.

A reminder about the town's street list or census forms. It is important for everyone to complete the form because this helps keep accurate voter registration, ensures representation in the state and federal legislatures, helps the Gateway Regional School District plan resources based on school population predictions as children must be included on the listing as well as all adults.

Also, keeping accurate local population records helps the town with state funding opportunities. Many grants are population based, and can provide funds for schools, public safety and as Blandford has seen, infrastructure.

The census form also maintains accurate veteran status, dog population and even cat population.

Failure to return the annual census risks being marked as an inactive voter, which can mean extra paperwork to vote.

The forms cannot be used to register to vote or to change a party affiliation; that has to be done separately through the Town Clerk's office. In order to maintain status as a voter, the street list form must be returned.

This will help the town be accurately represented, funding eligible and well prepared for future needs.

Doris Jemiolo, Town Clerk

Mary Kronholm, Assistant Town Clerk

**TREASURER**  
**Town Debt**

Landfill Cap - \$249,600 Finance by State House Note for 24 years beginning FY2001 @5.9%  
Interest paid in FY24 \$618.80 Principal paid in FY24 \$10,400.00  
Remaining Balance \$0

Permanent Bond for Phase I Granted by Rural Development \$1,183,803 @4.375%  
For 38 years issued 06/08/2004  
Interest paid in FY24 \$25,895.45 Principal paid in FY24 \$31,153.00  
Remaining Balance \$560,743.00

Permanent Bond for Phase II Granted by Rural Development \$1,288,697 @4.5%  
For 39 years issued 12/16/2004  
Interest paid in FY24 \$42,635.67 Principal paid in FY24 \$28,062.33  
Remaining Balance \$919,397.78

Permanent Bond for Phase III Granted by Rural Development \$1,600,623 @4.375%  
For 38 years issued 08/28/2006  
Interest paid in FY24 \$43,911.61 Principal paid in FY24 \$26,192.39  
Remaining Balance \$979,345.36

Permanent Bond for Phase IV Granted by Rural Development \$882,000 @4.125%  
For 39 years issued 06/12/2007  
Interest paid in FY24 \$21,455.94 Principal paid in FY24 \$22,616.00  
Remaining Balance \$497,528.00

Short term Broadband Bond Anticipation Note issued for \$2,025,000.00

Respectfully,  
Sara Hunter, CMMT  
Treasurer/Collector



## WATER DEPARTMENT

The Blandford Water Department has done a lot this year. We have started many new projects and have a few in progress.

The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), a system used for monitoring and controlling water supply processes, ensuring efficient operation and management of water resources has finally received funding. This upgrade project began in 2023 and started January 2025. This new operating system includes a new soda ash chemical system, new chemical supply line, automated valving, level meters and flow meters. This should be completed by the end of December 2025.

The Rate study is in progress with Wright & Pierce. This is one of the steps needed to set a water rate for the town. The process has been delayed a bit as the town has changed billing to a new system and personnel changes. We hope to have this completed by the end of the year.

The meter project has also been delayed due to the changes in systems and a supply chain issue from the manufacturer. We are hoping to start test running and be ready to meter by the end of the year

This spring we were awarded a reimbursable grant from the Massachusetts One Stop program for \$350,000 for the engineering part of three projects on North Street:

1. A 250,000-gallon water storage tank
2. An updated and expanded pump house and storage facility
3. Water line upgrades to the immediate area of the North Street upgrades

The ozone replacement system has failed and its repair is a project mandated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DPE) and needs to be replaced and brought back online. We have already done the basic engineering for this project and are in the process of allocating funding. This project has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency through Mass DEP, and we are awaiting information as to whether or not we will receive that funding.

The Main Electrical Service line is also in need of replacement at the water treatment plant. This project has also been submitted to the EPA through the Mass DEP. We are awaiting approval.

Upcoming projects are the water treatment plant influent line. This would allow the plant to access water in the thermocline which would allow access to a more consistent quality of water and allow for a larger quantity of water in cases of drought.

The overall report on our department is very good. We have a department of five. As we progress into a full-time department, we continue to improve not only our service but the quality of the water. Through the work we are doing we have allocated over \$950,000 in grants toward the projects keeping costs down.

In September, Blandford was recognized by the Mass Rural Water Association for having the second-best tasting water in the state. Sunderland was first in this category. Michael Keier, Chair; Brad Curry, Peter Thayer, Commissioners; Gordon Avery, Superintendent

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to grant variances to the town's zoning bylaws, to issue findings concerning specific uses of property, to hear appeals of decision made by the Building Department and to grant special permits were authorized by town bylaws. The Building Commissioner is designated as the officer charged with interpreting and enforcing town bylaws.

In 2024 the ZBA responded to several queries regarding the applicability of town bylaws to existing situations. There were no requests for variances or special permits.

The ZBA meets as needed. If interested in becoming a member of the ZBA please speak with the Select Board, there are vacancies.

Kim Bergland, Chair; Asa Kerr, Member

No reports from the **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT and TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

# **ADDENDA**

## ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

There were 89 ballots cast in the annual Town Election Saturday, June 8, 2024, according to Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo.

The position for Tree Warden was the only contest on the ballot, incumbent Mark Boomsma's seat was challenged by Gordon Avery IV. Avery took out nomination papers to get his name on the ballot.

Boomsma was elected with 59 votes to Avery's 28. This is his fifth term holding the position of Tree Warden.

All other offices on the ballot were uncontested.

Elected were: Assessor, Paul Martin; Board of Health Bret Hartley; Cemetery Commissioner, Stephen Jemiolo; Library Trustee, Mary Kronholm; Moderator, David Hopson; Municipal Light Board, Kim Bergland; Planning Board, Edna Wilander and Paul Martin; School Committee, Keri Morawiec; Select Board, Theodore Cousineau and Water Commissioner Brad Curry.

All positions are for three-year terms except both Planning Board positions are for five-year terms.

**STATE PRIMARY RESULTS SEPTEMBER 2024**

**PARTY: DEMOCRAT**

SENATOR IN CONGRESS – STATEWIDE

ELIZABETH ANN WARREN: 74

All Others: 0

Blanks: 0

Total Votes Cast: 74

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – FIRST DISTRICT

RICHARD E. NEAL: 70

All Others: 3

Blanks: 1

Total Votes Cast: 74

COUNCILLOR – EIGHTH DISTRICT

TARA J. JACOBS: 67

All Others: 5

Blanks: 2

Total Votes Cast: 74

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT – THIRD HAMPDEN DISTRICT

No Nomination

CLERK OF COURTS – HAMPDEN COUNTY

LAURA S. GENTILE: 68

All Others: 4

Blanks: 2

Total Votes Cast: 74

REGISTER OF DEEDS – HAMPDEN DISTRICT

CHERYL COAKLEY-RIVERA: 72

All Others: 0

Blanks: 2

Total Votes Cast: 74

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT – BERKSHIRE, HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

PAUL MARK: 70

All Others: 4

Blanks: 0

Total Votes Cast: 74

**PARTY: LIBERTARIAN**

SENATOR IN CONGRESS – STATEWIDE

No Nomination

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – FIRST DISTRICT

No Nomination

COUNCILLOR – EIGHTH DISTRICT

No Nomination

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT – THIRD HAMPDEN DISTRICT

No Nomination

CLERK OF COURTS – HAMPDEN COUNTY

No Nomination

REGISTER OF DEEDS – HAMPDEN DISTRICT

No Nomination

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT – BERKSHIRE, HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

No Nomination

**PARTY: REPUBLICAN**

SENATOR IN CONGRESS – STATEWIDE

ROBERT J. ANTONELLIS: 11

IAN CAIN: 3

JOHN DEATON: 49

All Others: 2

Blanks: 0

Total Votes Cast: 65

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – FIRST DISTRICT

No Nomination

COUNCILLOR – EIGHTH DISTRICT

No Nomination

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT – THIRD HAMPDEN DISTRICT

NICHOLAS A. BOLDYGA: 59

All Others: 6

Blanks: 0

Total Votes Cast: 65

CLERK OF COURTS – HAMPDEN COUNTY

No Nomination

REGISTER OF DEEDS – HAMPDEN DISTRICT

No Nomination

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT – BERKSHIRE, HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

DAVID ROSA: 57

All Others: 8

Blanks: 0

Total Votes Cast: 65

## STATE ELECTION RESULTS NOVEMBER 5, 2025

Registered voters cast 820 ballots.

Electors of President and Vice President

Ayyadurai and Ellis	5
Harris and Walz	308
Oliver and Ter Maat	5
Stein and Caballero-Roca	1
Trump and Vance	492

Senator in Congress

Warren	283
Deaton	523

Representative in Congress

Neal	327
Milleron	445

Councilor

Jacobs	505
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Clerk of Courts

Gentile	510
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Register of Deeds

Coakley-Rivera	334
Collamore	401

Senator in General Court

Mark	335
Rosa	434

Representative in General Court

Boldyga	618
Russo	0

Questions

1 – Audit the Legislature

Yes -548      no 224

2 – Students have skills that MCAS replaces

Yes -520      No 224

3 Unionize transportation network drivers

Yes 355      No 422

4 Regulation of psychedelic substances

Yes 334      No 465

5 Full minimum wage for tipped workers

Yes 207      No 587

6 3<sup>rd</sup> Hampden -Single payer health care

Yes 377      No 383



Special Town Meeting  
CERTIFIED MINUTES  
MARCH 18, 2024  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
County of Hampden, ss.  
Town of Blandford

The inhabitants of Blandford qualified to vote in elections and town affairs met at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts on Monday, , March 18, 2024, at 7 P.M., then and thereto to act on the following matters:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$78,838.00, or some other sum, to be used to purchase and equip a mini excavator for use by the Highway Department, including any incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.  
**Motion made and seconded; Finance Committee recommends.**  
**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 1 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$53,805.12, or some other sum, to be transferred to account #015752 005, Broadband Interest, to be used to service debt for the broadband system or take any other action relative thereto.  
**Motion made and seconded; Finance Committee recommends.**  
**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 2 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to apply for, accept, and expend Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grant funds, if approved, and further to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$120,000.00, from the Library Building Stabilization Fund, and transfer \$30,000 from free cash if said MPLCP grant is approved, said sum to be expended by the Town for library assessment, planning, feasibility and/or design, including any incidental and related expenses or take any other action relative thereto.  
**Motion made and seconded; Finance Committee recommends.**  
**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 3 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$780.84 to pay the following unpaid bills from prior fiscal years:

KP LAW: Invoice #136314, dated March 31, 2023,	\$130.70
Chester-Blandford Police Department, #23-000126, dated June 14, 2023,	\$330.00
Stryker Sales, LLC: #4110532 M, dated March 30, 2023.	\$120.14

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion made and seconded; Finance Committee recommends.**  
**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 4 passed unanimously.**



**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning By-Laws, SECTION VIII, GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS, subsection 8.1.2. Definitions, by deleting the strikethrough language and adding the underlined language as follows:

- ***"SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, SMALL SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:*** *A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted and has a rated nameplate capacity of less than ~~40~~ 20 KW DC, or occupies less than 1750 square feet of surface area".*
- ***SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, MEDIUM SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:*** *A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted and has a rated nameplate capacity between ~~40~~ 20 KW DC and 256 KW DC or occupies greater than 1750 square feet and less than 46,000 square feet of surface area*

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion made and seconded.**

**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 5 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning By-Laws by inserting new Section XVI, Battery Energy Storage Systems, as follows:

**SECTION XVI – Battery Energy Storage Systems**

**16.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide for the construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and to provide standards for the placement, design, construction, monitoring, modification and removal of energy storage systems that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources of the Town of Blandford and provide adequate financial assurance for decommissioning. The provisions set forth in this section shall take precedence over all other sections when considering applications related to the construction, operation, and/or repair of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

**16.2 Definitions**

**BATTERY OR BATTERIES** - a single cell or a group of cells connected together electrically in series, in parallel, or a combination of both, which can charge, discharge, and store energy electrochemically. For the purposes of this bylaw, batteries utilized in consumer products are excluded from these requirements.

**BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM** - a physical container providing secondary containment to one or more battery cells for storing electrical energy derived from solar or sourced directly from the grid that is equipped with cooling, ventilation, fire suppression, and an electronic battery management system. It may be a primary use or accessory to a solar energy facility, power generation facility, an electrical sub station, or other similar uses. A Battery Energy Storage System can be classified as a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage System, as follows:

- A. Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that have an aggregate energy capacity up to 20kWh and whose purpose is to store energy from residential solar energy systems if in a room or enclosed area, consist of only a single energy storage system

technology. The facility must comply with the State's electrical code (527 CMR 12.00) and the State's Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00).

- B. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that are interconnected to utility distribution lines and have an aggregate energy capacity greater than 20kWh but less than or equal to 10 Megawatts. The facility must comply with the State's electrical code (527 CMR 12.00) and the State's Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00).
- C. Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that are interconnected to high voltage transmission lines and have an aggregate energy capacity greater than 10 Megawatts. The facility must comply with the State's electrical code (527 CMR 12.00) and the State's Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00).

### **16.3 Applicability**

- A. **Building-integrated Battery Energy Storage Systems**
  - 1. Battery Energy Storage Systems that are building-integrated, whether a residential or commercial building, shall not be erected, constructed, installed, or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit from the Building Inspector.
  - 2. Building-integrated energy storage systems may be coupled with rooftop solar or behind the meter applications for peak shaving.
  - 3. Building-integrated battery energy storage systems may be located in any zoning district within the Town of Blandford.
- B. **Co-located Battery Energy Storage Systems**
  - 1. Battery Energy Storage Facilities are encouraged to co-locate with solar photovoltaic installations, energy power generation stations, and electrical sub-stations.
  - 2. Battery Energy Storage Systems associated with on-site solar power generation are permitted in all districts where solar photovoltaic installations are permitted by Special Permit and Site Plan Approval and shall be subject to the requirements of this Zoning Bylaw applicable to the co-located solar photovoltaic installations, in addition to the requirements set forth herein.
- C. Battery Energy Storage systems not associated with on-site solar generation shall only be permitted in the Agricultural Zoning District and shall require a Special Permit from the Planning Board.
- D. Modifications to, retrofits or replacements of an existing battery energy storage system that increase the total battery energy storage system designed discharge duration or power rating shall be subject to this bylaw.

### **16.4 General Requirements**

- A. All Tier 2 and 3 battery energy storage systems shall require a special permit and site plan approval by the Planning Board prior to construction, installation, or modification as provided in this bylaw.
- B. The construction, operation, and decommissioning of all battery storage energy storage systems shall be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable environmental, safety, construction, fire, and electrical requirements.
- C. A building permit and an electrical permit shall be required for installation of all battery energy storage systems.

### **16.5 Application Materials**

- A. In addition to requirements for Special Permit and Site Plan Approval, in accordance with Section IX, the application shall include the following:
1. A site plan prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts, that shows the following:
    - a. An existing condition plan with property lines and physical features, including topography and roads, characteristics of vegetation (trees- mature, old growth, shrubs, open field, etc.), wetlands, streams, ledge, for the project site.
    - b. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, including grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures, driveways, snow storage, and storm water management systems; including total acreage of disturbed area, total vegetation cleared, net including mowed fields;
    - c. Trees with a DBH of 20" or greater within project parcel(s) shall be identified to determine tree loss, along with inventorying of diseased or hazard trees slated to be removed due to proposed development;
    - d. Property lines and physical dimensions of the subject property with contour intervals of no more than 10 feet;
    - e. Property lines of adjacent parcels within 30 feet;
    - f. Location, dimensions, and types of existing major structures on the property;
    - g. Location of the proposed battery energy storage structures, foundations, and associated equipment;
    - h. The right-of-way of any public or private road that is contiguous with the property;
    - i. Any overhead or underground utilities;
    - j. At least one color photograph of the existing site, measuring eight inches by 10 inches.
    - k. Locations of floodplains or inundation areas for moderate or high hazard areas;
    - l. Locations of local or National Historic Districts.
    - m. Stormwater management and erosion and sediment control
  2. A preliminary equipment specification sheet that documents the proposed battery energy storage system components, inverters and associated electrical equipment that are to be installed, including manufacturer and model. A final equipment specification sheet shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit.
  3. One- or three-line electrical diagram showing associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all NEC compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
  4. Contact information and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents, if any, and all property owners;
  5. Contact information and signature of agents representing the project proponent, if any;
  6. Contact information for the person(s) responsible for public inquiries throughout the life of the system;
  7. An operations and maintenance plan for Battery Energy Storage System. Such plan shall describe continuing battery energy storage system maintenance and property upkeep, as well as design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning information;
  8. Energy Storage System technical specifications including manufacturer and model;
  9. Electrical schematic;
  10. Documentation that shows the owner of the Energy Storage System has site control, which shall include easements and access roads;
  11. Documentation that shows the owner of the Energy Storage System has notified the electric utility of this installation.

12. **Emergency Operations Plan.** A copy of the approved Emergency Operations Plan shall be given to the system owner, the local fire department, and local fire code official. A permanent copy shall also be placed in an approved location to be accessible to facility personnel, fire code officials, and emergency responders. The emergency operations plan shall include the following information:
  - a. Procedures for safe shutdown, de-energizing, or isolation of equipment and systems under emergency conditions to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injuries, and for safe start-up following cessation of emergency conditions.
  - b. Procedures for inspection and testing of associated alarms, interlocks, and controls.
  - c. Procedures to be followed in response to notifications from the Battery Energy Storage Management System, when provided, that could signify potentially dangerous conditions, including shutting down equipment, summoning service and repair personnel, and providing advance notification to fire department personnel for potentially hazardous conditions in the event of a system failure.
  - d. Emergency procedures to be followed in case of fire, explosion, release of liquids or vapors, damage to critical moving parts, or other potentially dangerous conditions. Procedures can include sounding the alarm, notifying the fire department, evacuating personnel, de-energizing equipment, and controlling and extinguishing the fire.
  - e. Response considerations similar to a safety data sheet (SDS) that will address response safety concerns and extinguishment when an SDS is not required.
  - f. Procedures for dealing with battery energy storage system equipment damaged in a fire or other emergency event, including maintaining contact information for personnel qualified to safely remove damaged battery energy storage system equipment from the facility.
  - g. Other procedures as necessary to provide for the safety of occupants, neighboring properties, and emergency responders.
  - h. Procedures and schedules for conducting drills of these procedures and for training local first responders on the contents of the plan and appropriate response procedures.
13. **Proof of liability insurance:** The applicant shall be required to provide evidence of liability insurance in an amount and for a duration sufficient to cover loss or damage to persons and property caused by the failure of the system.
14. **A noise study,** prepared by a qualified individual with experience in environmental acoustics, to assess the impact of all noise sources generated from the project to abutting properties, and determine the appropriate layout, design, and control measures. The report should include details of assessment methods, summarize the results, and recommend the required outdoor as well as any indoor control measures.
15. **Pollinator-Friendly Certification.** No Battery Energy Storage System shall be constructed until proof has been given to the Site Plan Approval Authority that the project proponent has obtained Pollinator-Friendly Certification for the Battery Energy Storage System through the UMass Clean Energy Extension Pollinator-Friendly Certification Program at a minimum of the Certified Certification Level, or other equivalent certification as determined by the Planning Board. This certification must be maintained throughout the life of the installation.

## **16.6 Design and Site Standards**

- A. All battery energy storage systems that require a special permit and site plan approval shall be set back a minimum of 100 feet from all side, rear, and front lot lines.

- B. In addition to the standards for Special Permit and Site Plan Approval, in accordance with Section IX, the applicant shall adhere to the following standards and provide such information on the site plan:
1. **Utility Lines.** All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility.
  2. **Signage.** The signage shall include the type of technology associated with the systems, any special hazards associated, the type of suppression system installed, and 24-hour emergency contact information. All information shall be clearly displayed on a light reflective surface. Clearly visible warning signs concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.
  3. **Lighting.** Lighting of the systems shall be limited to that minimally required for safety and operational purposes and shall be reasonably shielded and downward from adjoining properties.
  4. **Vegetation and Tree-Cutting.** Areas within ten (10) feet on each side of a system shall be cleared of combustible vegetation and other combustible growth. Single specimens of trees or shrubbery and cultivated ground covers such as green grass, ivy, succulents, or similar plants shall be exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the system and that which is otherwise prescribed by applicable bylaws and regulations.
  5. **Noise.** The 1-hour average noise generated from the systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall not exceed a noise level of 60 dBA as measured at the property line.

#### **16.7 Special Permit Criteria**

- A. The Planning Board may approve an application if the Board finds that the system complies with the Special Permit and Site Plan Approval criteria and with the conditions for granting Special Permits. Battery energy storage systems shall also satisfy the following additional criteria:
1. Environmental features of the site are protected, and surface runoff will not cause damage to surrounding properties or increase soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby streams and ponds.
  2. The Planning Board may also impose conditions as it finds reasonably appropriate to safeguard the town or neighborhood including, but not limited to, screening, lighting, noise, fences, modification of the exterior appearance of electrical cabinets, battery storage systems, or other structures, limitation upon system size, and means of vehicular access or traffic features.
  3. No occupancy permit shall be granted by the Building Commissioner, nor shall the site be energized or interconnected to the utility until the Planning Board has received, reviewed, and approved an as-built plan that demonstrates that the work proposed on the approved site plan, including all stormwater management components and associated off-site improvements, have been completed in accordance with the approved plan and certified same to the Building Commissioner.
  4. The Planning Board may, in its discretion, approve an as-built plan upon provision of a proper bond, covenant, or third-party agreement to secure incomplete work where such work is not immediately necessary for lawful operation of the system without negative effect on public health and safety and surrounding properties.
  5. The applicant shall make every effort to coordinate necessary surveying and finalization of the as-built plans and submission of required construction control documents prior to the

conclusion of construction. Notwithstanding the above, a temporary occupancy permit may be granted with the approval of the Planning Board subject to conditions for completion of work imposed by the Board.

## **16.8 Decommissioning**

- A. As part of the applicant's submission to the Board, the applicant shall submit a decommissioning plan to be implemented upon abandonment or in conjunction with removal from property. The plan shall include:
1. A narrative description of the activities to be accomplished, including who will perform that activity and at what point in time, for complete physical removal of all battery energy storage system components, structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the property.
  2. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
  3. The anticipated life of the battery energy storage systems
  4. The estimated decommissioning costs and how said estimate was determined.
  5. The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration.
  6. The method by which the decommissioning cost will be kept current.
  7. The manner in which the site will be restored, including a description of how any changes to the surrounding areas and other systems adjacent to the battery energy storage system, such as, but not limited to, structural elements, building penetrations, means of egress, and required fire detection suppression systems, will be protected during decommissioning and confirmed as being acceptable after the system is removed.
  8. A listing of any contingencies for removing an intact operational battery energy storage system from service, and for removing an energy storage system from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event
- B. Decommissioning Fund. The owner and/or operator of the energy storage system, shall continuously maintain a fund or bond payable to the Town of Blandford, in an approved form for the removal of the battery energy storage system, in an amount to be initially determined by the Planning Board and periodically reviewed and adjusted by the Board at its discretion, for the life of the facility. All costs of the financial security shall be borne by the applicant. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.
- C. An inspection of the completed decommissioned area shall be reviewed by a consultant hired by the Planning Board before approving the decommissioning work in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan. The owner and/or operator shall pay for the cost of this review with such payment being provided by the owner and/or operator prior to the consultant undertaking said review, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53G.

## **16.9 Safety**

- A. System Certification. Battery energy storage systems and equipment shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory to UL 9540 (Standard for battery energy storage systems and Equipment) or approved equivalent, with subcomponents meeting each of the following standards as applicable.

1. UL 1973 (Standard for Batteries for Use in Stationary, Vehicle Auxiliary Power and Light Electric Rail Applications)
  2. UL 1642 (Standard for Lithium Batteries)
  3. UL 1741 or UL 62109 (Inverters and Power Converters)
  4. Certified under the applicable electrical, building, and fire prevention codes as required.
  5. Alternatively, field evaluation by an approved testing laboratory for compliance with UL 9540 (or approved equivalent) and applicable codes, regulations and safety standards may be used to meet system certification requirements.
- B. Site Access. Battery energy storage systems shall be maintained in good working order and in accordance with industry standards. Site access shall be maintained, including snow removal at a level acceptable to the local fire department.
- C. Battery energy storage systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall have required working space clearances, and electrical circuitry shall be within weatherproof enclosures marked with the environmental rating suitable for the type of exposure in compliance with NFPA 70.

#### **16.10 Abandonment**

- A. The battery energy storage system shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate consistently for more than twelve (12) months. The system shall be presumed abandoned if the owner and/or operator fails to respond affirmatively within thirty (30) days to a written inquiry from the Building Inspector with confirmation of receipt as to the continued validity and operation of the system. If the owner or operator fails to comply with decommissioning upon any abandonment, the Town may, at its discretion, and in accordance with applicable law, utilize the available bond or surety for the removal of a system and restore the site in accordance with the decommissioning plan.

#### **16.11 Severability**

If any provision of this By-Law is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this By-Law shall not be affected but remain in full force. The invalidity of any provision of this By-Law shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Blandford Zoning Bylaw.

Or take any action related thereto,

**Motion made and seconded; Finance Committee recommends.**

**Moderator Hupson Declared Article 6 passed unanimously**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning By-Laws, SECTION XII, SCHEDULE OF USES to add new uses for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage Systems, as follows:

Article	Description	Zoning Districts				Notes
		SP	N	N	N	
5.16	Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage System	Y	Y	Y	Y	See Sections IX & XVI
5.17	Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage System	SP	N	N	N	See Sections IX & XVI
5.18	Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage System	SP	N	N	N	See Sections IX & XVI

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion made and seconded;**

**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 7 passed unanimously**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning By-Laws, SECTION XII, SCHEDULE OF USES by barring Ground Mounted Solar photovoltaic installations in the Leng Pond Watershed Protection zone.

Article	Description	Zoning Districts				Notes
		SP	N	N	SP N	
5.3	Ground Mounted Solar photovoltaic installations	SP	N	N	SP N	See Sections VIII & IX

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion made and seconded to table Article 8;**

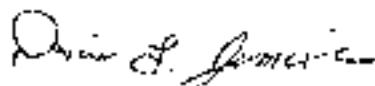
**Moderator Hopson Declared Motion to table passed unanimously**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$26,637.60, or some other sum, from Account #0150145 000 Treasurer's Salary to Account # 0150145 008 Treasurer/Collector Prof. Services to pay for contracted Treasurer Services, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion made and seconded; Finance Committee recommends.**

**Moderator Hopson Declared Article 9 passed unanimously**

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**



Doris L. Jemiolo, Town Clerk





**Certified Minutes Annual Town Meeting  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
County of Hampden, ss.  
Town of Blandford**

**TO:** One of the Constables in the Town of Blandford, in said County and State

**GREETINGS:** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of Blandford qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 7 P.M., then and thereto to act on the following matters:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officials and act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Requires Simple Majority Vote.*

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 1 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$1,569,382 for the Gateway Regional School District assessment, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.*

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 2 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$275,000 for Vocational Education (account #015301,000) for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.*

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 3 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$31,878 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education (account #015302,000) for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.*

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 4 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$2,495,471, more or less, to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.  
(See proposed Departmental Budgets).

*Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.*

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 5 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 44, sec. 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with G.L. c. 44, sec. 17; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 6 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to be deposited into the general-purpose Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 7 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to be deposited into the Building Project Stabilization Fund account; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 8 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to be deposited into the Library Building Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 9 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to be deposited into the Education Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 10 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,000, or some other sum, for the purpose of undertaking Town building condition assessments, including all incidental or related costs and expenses; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 11 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$773,487 from Water Department Receipts to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, including direct and indirect expenses of the enterprise; or take any other action relative thereto. (See proposed departmental budget). Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 12 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Department Retained Earnings the sum of \$30,000 to the Water Department Stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 13 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Department Retained Earnings the sum of \$25,000 to the Water Department Capital Expenses Account (#225-150.028); or take any other action relative thereto. Requires simple majority vote to pass. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 14 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Broadband Receipts the sum of \$457,740 to operate the Municipal Light Plant for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto. Requires simple majority vote to pass. Hear Finance Committee Recommended

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 15 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Broadband Retained Earnings the sum of \$25,000 to the Municipal Light Plant Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 16 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Broadband Retained Earnings the sum of \$125,000 to pay toward the principal and interest of the broadband debt for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 17 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Broadband Retained Earnings the sum of \$53,805.12 to the Town's General Fund to reimburse the Town for the sum approved by the vote taken under Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting held on March 18, 2024 to service debt to the broadband system; or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Hear Finance Committee recommended.

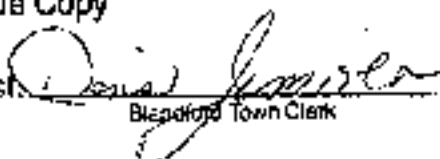
**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 18 passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial corrections and revisions only to the grammar, formatting, and numbering of the Town's General Bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto. Requires Simple Majority. Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Blanford this 23rd day of May 2024

**Motion made and appropriately seconded. ARTICLE 19 passed unanimously.**

A True Copy

Attest:

  
Blanford Town Clerk



**Certified Minutes  
Special Town Meeting  
County of Hampden, ss.  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Town of Blandford  
December 20, 2024**

On Friday, December 20, 2024, at 7 P.M. all inhabitants of Blandford qualified to vote in elections and town affairs met at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts to act on the following matters:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to begin funding the Town's OPEB (*Other Post-Employment Benefits, a method of prefunding health benefits for retirees*) obligations; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 1 – appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund (80-990-5961-800101-0000) for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Council on Aging; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 2 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,000.00 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund (80-990-5961-800101-0000) to the External IT support/Computer Software account (01-155-5300-000000-0000) to pay for necessary Information Technology upgrades which were not included in the FY25 budget; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 3 -appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from Free Cash into the Reserve Fund (01-132-5780-000000-0000); or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 4 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,220.88 from the Highway Vehicle Fuel account (01-422-5480-000000-0000) to pay for a previous fiscal year invoice from Dennis K. Burke, Inc. that was not included in the encumbrances; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 5 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$522.55 from Free Cash into Treasurer/Collector Expense account (01-145-5700-000000-0000) to pay for previous fiscal year invoices from Harpers Payroll Services that were not included in the encumbrances; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 6 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,703.57 from Free Cash into Highway Garage Maintenance/Repairs account (01422-5240-000002-0000) to pay for a previous fiscal year invoice from Western Mass Environmental, LLC that was not included in the encumbrances; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 7 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

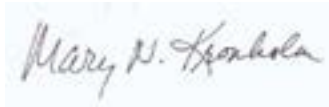
**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$15,000.00 from Free Cash into New Town Hall Maintenance & Repairs account (01-192-5240-000000-0000); or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 8 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from Free Cash into Accounting Services account (01-135-530-000000-0000); or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 9 - appropriately motioned and seconded; passed by unanimous vote as declared by moderator**

A True Copy Attest

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary N. Kronholm", is written in blue ink on a light blue rectangular background.

Mary Kronholm  
Assistant Town Clerk

*In the absence of Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo*  
December 27, 2024





